FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-094
Monday
16 May 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-094 CONTENTS *16 May 1988*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 May Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on Al-Wazir Death, U.S. Role *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 11 May]* 4
PLO's 'Arafat Condemns Nicosia Car Bomb Blast *[Nicosia]* 5
'Arafat Says 138 Wounded in Al-Aqsa Clashes *[INA]* 5
Salah Khalaf on PLO-Syria Ties, U.S. Plan *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 11 May]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Government Offers Mediation on U.S. Hostages *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 May]* 9

Egypt

Gasoline Price To Increase 10 Piasters Per Liter 9

Morocco

MAP Interviews Israel's Foreign Minister 9
King Hassan Receives U.S. Envoy Whitehead 9

Sudan

DUP Reportedly Withdraws From Cabinet Talks 9
New Government Sworn in; Ministers Named *[WAKH]* 10
3 Explosions in Khartoum; Arrests Made *[MENA]* 10
  'At Least' 7 Killed 11
Khartoum Airport Closed 'Until Further Notice' *[MENA]* 11
  Airport Reopens *[MENA]* 11
Agreement Reached With Ethiopia on Security 11
USSR Seeks Help in Release of Hostages 11
Toposa Chief Reportedly Supports SPLA *[Radio SPLA]* 12
Armed Forces Crush Attempts To Destroy Bridges 12

Tunisia

President Pardons Islamic Leader, Others 12
U.S. Diplomat Arrives, Meets Foreign Minister 12
Algeria's Messaadia Arrives, Delivers Message 12
Chad Envoy Delivers Habre Message to President 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir, Foreign Minister Receive Iranian Envoy 13
  Message From Khamene'i 13
  Amir Criticizes 'Superpowers' *[IRNA]* 13
  Message From Velayati 13
UAE Minister Departs for Rabat After Visit 13

Saudi Arabia

King Receives Bendjedid Message on Arab Summit 13
Ziaul Haq Departs After Pilgrimage 14 May 14

United Arab Emirates

Daily Terms U.S. Veto 'Outrageous Insult' *[AL-BAYAN 13 May]* 14

IRAQ

President Returns After Talks With King Husayn 15
'Aziz Departs on Official Visit to GDR 15 May 15
Ramadan on Al-Faw, UN Security Council 15
Editor Urges Arabs 'To Isolate Syrian Regime' 16
Presidential Guards Commander on Battle Strategy *[KUNA]* 16
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 17
    Communique No 3,176 17
    Air Force Raids Larak Island 17
    Lloyds Reports 4 Tankers Hit 18
    54 Seamen Missing *[AFP]* 18
    Communique No 3,178 18
    'Very Large Maritime Target' Hit 18
    Communique No 3,179 19

ISRAEL

Air Force Attacks Sidon Area 'Terrorist Base' 20
2 Lebanese Fishermen Released Offshore 20
Change in Soviet Consular Delegation Refused 20
'Softening' Noted in Soviet Middle East Policy *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 May]* 20
Credentials Returned to U.S. Reporter Frankel 21
Mitzna' Interviewed on Policy in West Bank 21
Goren on Decision To Reopen Schools in W. Bank 22
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 24
    Gaza Closed Military Zone 24
    IDF Soldier Wounded in Gaza 24
    Commercial Strike in Gaza 24
    Roundup of 15 May Incidents 24
    Curfew Imposed on Al-Nusayrat 25
    1 Killed, 2 Wounded in Gaza 25
    6 Wounded by IDF Fire 25
    1 Dead, 5 Wounded in Riots 25
Soldier Sentenced in Salim Bulldozer Affair 26
Students Participate in Beating Arab Detainees 26
    2 Hizballahi Sent to Prison 26

JORDAN

King Husayn Returns From Saudi Arabia 13 May 27
Reportage on Visit by Iraq's Saddam Husayn 27
    Arrives in Amman 14 May 27
    Holds Talks, Departs 27
King Husayn, Others Receive U.S. Envoy to UN 28

LEBANON

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues 29
    More Than 250 Killed 29
    Hizballah Reported Divided *[VOL]* 29
    Suburb Entry Points Closed 29
    Syria To Enter Suburb 29
    Birri To Dissolve Militia *[RFL]* 30

Artillery Kills 3 in W. Beirut *[RFL]* 30
Syrian Special Units Arriving *[RFL]* 30
'Fighters' May Resist Syrians *[VOL]* 30
Syrian Reinforcements Continue *[VOL]* 30
Postponed Entry Requested 31
'Fierce Clashes' Continue *[RFL]* 31
Amal Dismisses Several Leaders *[VONR]* 31
Inter-Palestinian Clashes Kill 8, Wound 100 *[VOL]* 31
Cease-Fire Agreement Reached *[Manama WAKH]* 31
Resistance Attacks Lahd Patrol; 50 Casualties 31
Israeli Helicopters Attack Palestinian Bases *[AFP]* 32
Aimed at 2 Fatah Positions *[VOL]* 32
Hostages Said Moved to Hizballah Official's Home *[VOL]* 32
Moved to Iranian Embassy *[VOL]* 32
'Sources' Say Syria, Iran Discuss Fate of Hostages *[AFP]* 32

SYRIA

Al-Asad Addresses Ramadan Banquet 12 May 33
President Receives Algerian Foreign Minister 35
AL-THAWRAH Cited on U.S. Plans, 'Deception' 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Joint Statement Issued on Soviet Troop Withdrawal 36
Najibullah Address at 14 May News Conference 37
Soviets Begin Troop Withdrawal 15 May *[AFP]* 39
Convoy Passes Through Kabul *[AFP]* 39
Troops Leave Jalalabad 40
Soviet Commander Holds News Conference 15 May 41
More Troops To Leave by 29 May *[AFP]* 42
Najibullah, Keshtmand 15 May Message to Soviets 43
Rebels Launch Missile Attack on Kabul 14 May 43
Bomb Planted on Kabul Bridge Explodes, Kills 10 43
Mujahidin Attack Soviet Embassy in Kabul 14 May *[Tehran]* 44
Landmine Kills Mujahidin Commander in Chamkani *[AFP]* 44
'Terrorist' Bombs Discovered in Jalalabad, Kabul 44
Decree Issued on National Assembly Session 44

India

Security Forces, Sikhs Clash at Golden Temple 44
Prakash Singh Badal Arrested 44
Punjab Governor Issues Warning *[AFP]* 45
100 Persons Surrender 15 May 45
7 'Terrorists' Surrender 45
Opposition Supports Action 46
25 'Terrorists' Surrender 15 May 46
Gandhi Comments on Punjab, Pakistan 47
Pakistani Interior Secretary Arrives for Talks 47
Meets Home Secretary 47
Talks End 16 May 47
Work on Fencing of Pakistan Border Progresses 47
EXPRESS on Bangladesh Border Problem *[7 May]* 48
Defense Minister Stresses Preparedness 48

Iran

Larak Raid 'Coordinated' by U.S., Iraq 48
Swiss Envoy Summoned Over U.S. Role in Attack 49
Prime Minister Says Reagan Pushing U.S. To War 49

Radio Analyzes U.S. Support for Iraqi Attacks 49
Deputy Minister Larijani's Pre-Sermon Address 50
Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 50
Further on Jerusalem Day Marches 53
    Statement of Marchers 53
Voting Hours Extended To Accommodate Turnout 54
Islamic Punishment Act Ratified 54
Navy Commander Cited on Upcoming Maneuvers 54
WIH Denies Iraqi Claim on Shelling Basra 55
WIH Denies 15 May Attack on Al-Sulaymaniyah 55
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 55
    Communique No 3,201 55
    Iraqi Shelling Wounds 23 55
    Communique on Recents Clashes 55
    Iraqi Sites at Ba'qubah Bombed 56
    Iraqis Use Toxic Gas in Irbil 56
    Communique No 3,203 56
    28 Casualties in Iraqi Raid 57
Flag of Freedom Reports Anti-Regime Protests 57

Pakistan

President Swears in New Ministers 15 May 57
Steps Taken To Implement Geneva Accords 58
PNP Chief on Attempt To Partition Afghanistan *[DAWN 9 May]* 58
Zain Noorani Leads Delegation to USSR 15 May 59
Interior Secretary Departs for New Delhi Talks 59
Press Note on Curfew Relaxation in Karachi Areas 59

Sri Lanka

Official Says Phased Withdrawal by IPKF Planned *[AFP]* 59
Land Minister Denies Agreement Signed 59
Spokesman Says 2 Killed in LTTE Landmine Blast *[Delhi]* 60
LTTE Arms Captured; 2 IPKF Soldiers Killed 60

16 May Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1605132788 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Syrian Decision to Intervene—Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an confirmed Syria's decision to intervene in the southern suburb in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio 15 May. Syrian forces have been instructed to enter the suburb, impose security on it, prevent any show of force, and end the oppression and fear imposed by the gunmen, he asserted. He called on all gunmen in the area to lay down their arms because Syrian forces will fire on anyone carrying weapons. Kan'an said Syria had "no alternative" to this decision to rescue people from the "bloodbath and death" in the suburb because repeated attempts to secure a cease-fire have failed as a result of the gunmen's insistence on continuing the fighting.

In the wake of Kan'an's announcement, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that some 5,000 Syrian troops were preparing to enter the suburb, where clashes were continuing between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. Further Syrian reinforcements arrived during the night, including tanks and armored vehicles, the radio said. The Syrian units moved to southern Beirut include units of "special forces" from the Al-Biqa' Valley, AFP disclosed.

On the political background, an Amal source cited by Beirut radio disclosed that the decision to enter the southern suburb was made on the basis of a 14 May telephone contact between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. While the Voice of Lebanon stated that Iran is "less than enthusiastic" about the idea of Syrian deployment in the suburb, the radio subsequently disclosed that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam left Beirut to meet with Al-Asad in Damascus after becoming "angry" with Hizballah's rejection of Iranian peace efforts. The radio said the Hizballah leadership is divided in its attitude to the impending Syrian intervention. Damascus radio reported that "official, popular, and Islamic" figures in Lebanon welcomed the Syrian decision, noting Shi'ite scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah's remark that there is "no problem or obstacle" to the entry of Syrian forces into the suburb to enforce security and discipline. General Kan'an has contacted the Hizballah leadership over the issue, Beirut radio disclosed, and he has warned that the Syrian Army will "crush" anyone who tries to confront it.

Regarding the fate of foreign hostages in the suburb, an AFP report indicated that Syria has thus far held back from moving into the suburb pending the outcome of Syrian-Iranian contacts on their fate. Voice of Lebanon radio had earlier carried conflicting reports on the hostages' whereabouts. An AL-SHIRA' article stated that they have been moved to the house of Hizballah official Muhammad al-Amin, the radio noted, but other information indicated that they have been taken to the Iranian Embassy.

The announcement of the Syrian intervention followed further Hizballah-Amal clashes during which Hizballah consolidated its control over most of the suburb, leaving Amal only in control of pockets in Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The radio said that 15 people were killed and 45 injured in the fighting 13-14 May, noting reports that many Amal fighters vacated their positions east of Beirut Airport without a struggle. AFP reported that Hizballah's advance to the airport road brought it into conflict with Syrian forces, who shot dead five Hizballah gunmen. However, the pro-Hizballah clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio denied that any clash had occurred between Hizballah and the Syrian "brothers." In the wake of the Amal Movement's military defeat in southern Beirut, Voice of National Resistance radio reported that Amal has dismissed several of its "spiritual and military" leaders in the capital. Citing Amal sources, the radio added that a decision has been made to "dissolve" Amal's organization in Beirut and retain no military presence outside the south.

Inter-Palestinian Conflict—Fatah loyalists and dissidents engaged in renewed battles in Palestinian camps in Beirut over the weekend, the Voice of Lebanon reported, noting that a cease-fire was reached the afternoon of 14 May. The radio said that 8 people were killed and 100 injured in the fighting, during which the dissidents abandoned most their positions in Burj al-Barajinah. The UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD had earlier reported the arrival in Beirut of dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muraghah, alias Abu Musa, accompanied by an armored force equipped with artillery.

Israeli Air Raid—Israeli aircraft attacked a "terrorist" base south of Sidon the night of 15 May, scoring "direct hits" on a building in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, Jerusalem radio reported. Lebanese sources cited by the radio said the attack targeted a Fatah base, wounding three people. However, a PFLP-GC spokesman said the raid was directed at a PFLP-GC center in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, according to the clandestine Al-Quds radio.

Gulf Conflict

A 14 May Iraqi air raid on four oil tankers at Larak Island was carried out in "coordination" with the United States, Tehran radio claimed. The U.S. Navy jammed Iranian aircraft radar and radio systems while Iraqi planes were bombing the ships berthed at Larak, the radio asserted, and U.S. aircraft flew over the area on a reconnaissance mission 15 minutes after the attack.

According to IRNA, Iran handed the Swiss charge d'affaires in Tehran a strongly worded protest note over U.S. "involvement" in the raid, while Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi warned that Iran "reserves the right of retaliation."

The raid on Larak was announced earlier by Iraq in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, which stated that a "very large number" of Iraqi planes had flown over 1,200 km to the island to bomb the supertankers which act as floating reservoirs for Iranian oil. The Iraqi planes reportedly achieved "complete surprise" and set their targets ablaze. A Lloyds report cited by AFP confirmed that four tankers were hit, including the Liberian-registered supertanker "Seawise Giant," which was engulfed in flames and almost totally destroyed. A smaller Spanish tanker was sunk, and two other vessels were set on fire. Gulf shipping sources cited by AFP reported that a number of seamen were missing, including 15 from the "Seawise Giant." Tehran radio likewise cited reports by shipping sources that "tens of foreign sailors" were killed in the raid. Iraq carried out another air strike in the Gulf later the same day, hitting a "very large" maritime target off the Iranian coast, according to a military announcement over Voice of the Masses.

Iranian warplanes were also in action over the weekend, raiding Iraqi positions in the Zurbatiyah area 14 May, and striking at positions of the II Army Corps in Ba'qubah the following day, Tehran radio and IRNA reported. IRNA also stated that Iraqi artillery shelled the Iranian Kurdish town of Marivan 13 May, wounding 23 civilians. Another IRNA report accused Iraq of again using chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurdish villagers, asserting that chemical bombs dropped by Iraqi planes in the Irbil area recently killed at least 100 civilians. For Iraq's part, a communique carried by Voice of the Masses stated that five Iraqi civilians were wounded by Iranian air and artillery attacks 15 May. On Iraq's war strategy, the commander of the Iraqi presidential guards told Kuwait's AL-QABAS that his country has decided on a "new strategy" whereby Iraqi forces will henceforth respond to any Iranian offensive by launching a counterattack in any part of the front, KUNA noted. This will deter Iran from massing forces in any single sector, he pointed out. Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn held talks with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman 14-15 May, INA reported, noting that their talks covered the war, Arab developments, and bilateral relations. Amman radio said the two leaders also discussed preparations for the upcoming Arab summit in Algiers.

Afghanistan

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan began on schedule, TASS announced 15 May, noting that "tens of thousands" of people from Jalalabad and Nangarhar Province turned out to give the "motorized infantry unit" a festive send-off on its homeward journey via the Afghan capital. The march took place "very successfully and in a highly organized way" a Soviet colonel declared to the agency, noting that there were "no casualties." Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, commander of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, had previously warned that any attacks on withdrawing troops would be "rebuffed," according to remarks cited by Moscow World Service. The general reaffirmed that the pullout will be completed by 15 February 1989, and he stressed the "internationalist" character of the Soviet soldiers whose departure represents compliance with the Geneva accords and not a "military defeat," TASS reported. The Soviet commander also reiterated his country's confidence in the combat capability of the Afghan Armed Forces.

A Soviet-Afghan joint statement carried by IZVESTIYA and BAKHTAR stressed that the "pivotal question" in the settlement of the Afghan situation is the "cessation of external interference" in that country's internal affairs. On the subject of bilateral relations, the Soviet side reiterated its pledge to further develop economic cooperation and to assist with the repatriation of Afghan refugees while the Afghan side renewed its vow to promote national reconciliation. In a 14 May statement to the press carried by Kabul radio, President Najibullah recounted the positive results of the Afghan Government's program for national reconciliation, and he again appealed to the opposition to sit at the negotiating table. Najibullah also urged them to send representatives to the Meli Shura which is scheduled to convene soon. According to a TASS report, Najibullah announced that under the Council of Ministers an Office for the North had been created to deal with the problems of that area which produces almost 50 percent of Afghanistan's national product. In response to questions, the Afghan president reportedly denied plans to partition the country.

Regarding the security situation, BAKHTAR reported that 10 people were killed and 13 wounded when a car bomb exploded in Kabul 14 May. The agency also noted that a rocket attack on the capital killed three people and injured several others. Kabul radio reported that during a meeting with the interior minister, city elders and community leaders promised to cooperate with the security forces to prevent "terrorist and subversive actions."

Sudan

An explosion at Khartoum's Acropole Hotel killed at least seven people, including four "Europeans," SUNA reported 16 May. Among those wounded were two Americans, two Dutch, two Canadians, and a Briton. The agency added that at least one man was killed in a fire at the British Sudan Club near the hotel and noted that a number of Sudanese nationals and foreigners were arrested.

Israel

An Arab youth was killed and two others injured during "grave disturbances" in the Gaza Strip 16 May, IDF radio reported. Another Arab was killed and 5 wounded during incidents in "Judaea and Samaria" the same day, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The previous day, inhabitants of the territories marked the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the State of Israel with a general strike, the radio noted. Riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem were dispersed by police 13 May, resulting in a number of injuries and arrests, according to the radio. In a statement carried by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, the PLO accused the Israeli security forces of using poisonous gas and live ammunition against the demonstrators, causing "more than 140 casualties, some of which were serious." A MAPAM Knesset member has asked the authorities to investigate reports that Israeli high school students participated in beating Arab detainees in a detention center near Ramallah, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The incident reportedly occurred when the students visited the center during their paramilitary training at a military base. In another development, the radio noted that the authorities have returned press credentials to U.S. journalist Glenn Frankel.

Egypt

Iran must not believe that the Arabs will not retaliate if it attacks any Gulf state, President Husni Mubarak warned in an interview with Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH carried by MENA. The Arabs will definitely not remain idle in face of a strong Iranian attack on a Gulf state, and they will provide the Gulf countries with the "necessary assistance," he added. On the Palestinian issue, Mubarak stressed the need to be "realistic," and he said it would be "unreasonable" for the Arabs to say that all of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' proposals are unacceptable. The Arabs will lose the world's sympathy if they continue to reject everything, he said, particularly since their cause is called one of "wasted opportunities." As for relations with Libya, Mubarak reaffirmed his view that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi cannot be trusted, claiming that even President al-Asad does not trust the Libyan leader.

Discussing Egypt's military strategy in a lengthy interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah stressed that Egypt might need to fight "any country," adding that "even a nation with which you have a peace agreement is in the long run a potential enemy when there is a clash of strategic interests." Egypt might also have to take military action if "a certain group seized power in a country on the River Nile and then decided to harm Egypt's strategic interests in the Nile waters." Abu Ghazalah also strongly defended the recent U.S.-Egyptian military memorandum of understanding, asserting that it does not violate Egypt's sovereignty and does not contain secret clauses. On the M-1 tank program, he disclosed that Egypt plans to produce 550 over the next 5 years, manufacturing 80 percent of the parts. He denied a British newspaper's claim that Egypt is manufacturing a surface-to-surface missile, indicating that this report stemmed from test launches of a domestically produced version of the Soviet SA-2 antiaircraft missile. The tests were successful, he said, but Egypt lacks the funds to mass-produce such missiles.

Syria

In a 12 March speech reported by Damascus radio, President Hafiz al-Asad insisted on the need to continue making "economic and material sacrifices" to confront the "looming danger" of Israel, whose desire for all the land from the Nile to the Euphrates is "as clear as the sun." If Syria cannot prevent the "Zionist expansion," no other Arab state can, he said, adding that "we are looking forward to the fateful battle with the Zionist enemy."

Iran

Elections—Tehran radio broadcast results of the second round of Majlis elections, in which around 79 candidates were elected in over 50 constituencies. Sixteen members were elected in Tehran. IRNA noted that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni participated in the vote, which took place 13 May.

Islamic Punishment—Persons committing a "sinful" act in public or offending "public decency" are liable to receive 74 lashes under articles of the Islamic Punishment Act, IRNA reported. The punishment will apply to women appearing in public without religious dress.

Tunisia

Rached Gannouchi, the Islamic Tendency Movement leader who in September 1987 was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against state security, was prominent among the 234 convicts pardoned by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, Tunis radio announced 14 May. The president also restored the civil rights of 1,154 people, and he granted a "conditional discharge" to 250 prisoners.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on Al-Wazir Death, U.S. Role

JN1305111388 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 May 88 p 9

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by AL-ITTIHAD and Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR—place, date not given]

[Text] Question: You have described the Al-Faw victory as a lightning strike. You also said it has reversed all the yardsticks of military strategy in the region. Can this battle be a good omen that could be applied to Jerusalem and its liberation?

Yasir 'Arafat: This is what we are aspiring to and working for, God willing. The Al-Faw victory in which Iraq succeeded in liberating this beloved part of the Arab soil gives us a clear sign of what could happen with respect to Jeursalem. The Al-Faw liberation is a good omen. God willing, this is what will take place in Palestine. I proceed here from the following postulate: From Basra to Gaza: one battle. This postulate is being repeated after me by the strugglers of the sacred stones in my country, in occupied Palestine, who are confronting the Zionist enemy and the United States, its strategic ally.

Question: Has not Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir's] assassination shed light on the means Israel could resort to against other Palestinian leaders in the future to check the momentum of the uprising and stifle it?

Yasir 'Arafat: The war between us and them has its ups and downs. There is no doubt that the assassination of Abu Jihad is a great loss. He was a leader who fell on the road. While speaking about the great loss the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation have suffered, this also shows a very important aspect of the Palestinian revolution. This aspect is that we never say "advance" but "follow us." This is one of the rules of the Palestinian revolution in accordance with which leaders and cadres fall alongside the stone-throwers and alongside the RPG generals in southern Lebanon in defense of the sacred land of Palestine.

The objective of the Israeli oppressive practices, assassinations, and storming of cities is well known. They believe that by carrying out these terrorist crimes they can control, contain, and encircle our Palestinian people's blessed uprising.

However, I proudly say that our people have been able to overcome the psychological crisis that followed the martyrdom of Abu Jihad with capability and confidence, and Israel's terrorist practices will only set the land ablaze under the feet of invaders in our occupied territories. Thos who are following the course of the operations carried out by our people — children, women, and men in our occupied territories realize that this revolution and this uprising confirm that our people will continue their confrontation until the Israeli occupation is terminated.

I tell the Zionists who do not realize what martyrdom means to our people that martyrdom waters the tree of freedom and infuses strength into our people in this long march. Abu Jihad is a great leader whom we lost. We lost before him Sa'd Sayil, Majid Abu Sharar, Kamal Nasir, Kamal 'Udwan, Abu Yusuf al-Najjar, Abu 'Ali Iyad, Abu Sabri, 'Abd al-Fattah Hammud, Ghassan Kanafani, Nizar, Munthir Abu Ghazalah, Hamdi Marwan, and Abu Hasan. We lost many starting with Wa'il Zu'aytir in Italy, Al-Hamshari in Paris, Al-Qubays in Paris and ending with the ongoing attempts which have never ceased. This is a vicious and fierce war between us and the Zionist enemy which is boundlessly supported by the United States.

Question: This raises suspicions that the United States has a role to play in the terrorist operations Israel launches. Is it possible that the United States has actually given Israel the green light to carry out its terrorist strikes?

Yasir 'Arafat: The United States has not only given the green light, it also colluded with Israel in the same way it did in the Hammam al-Shatt operation. It was not an Israeli operation. It was an Israeli-U.S. operation. Later they were forced to say that McFarlane was the one who had made the decision after he resigned. They also said it was Pollard who had supplied the photos after it was revealed that he had been an Israeli spy on his U.S. masters. The United States also particiapted in the assassination of Abu Jihad.

I wonder: Can a plane stay in the same place in the air for 3 hours without the permission of the fleet? Is it possible that the naval unit from which the criminals landed and on which they made their escape moved around without U.S. permission? We have come to know that there was a military force on the naval unit which was ready to intervene at the appropriate time. This intervention was not only to take place with infantry elements.

The operation was preplanned in a manner that permitted them to intervene with other means, including the two warplanes that were monitored by some radar stations in the area. These two warplanes were escorting the Boeing 707 on board which were the Israeli commanders.

Therefore, the operation was a big one and could not have taken place without the permission and approval of the 6th Fleet. This means there was collusion in the operation. In addition to the fact that the decision to assassinate Abu Jihad had been made by the Israeli Inner Cabinet, it also took place as a result of advance permission from the U.S. Administration

Question: Is this why the U.S. Administration abstained from voting on the UN Security Council resolution of last April condemning Israel for its violation of Tunisian security and sovereignty?

Yasir 'Arafat: It not only abstained, but insisted on removing Israel's name from the resolution and placing it in the introduction only, and then abstained from voting.

Question: This confirms it is Israel's partner in this operation?

Yasir 'Arafat: Of course it is a partner. We have evidence of this, like the evidence with which I challenged them with during the Hammam al-Shatt operation.

Question: How can you live with this new terrorist reality that Israel has imposed through the assassination of Abu Jihad? Security-wise, how can one confront this mobile state-led terrorist arsenal?

Yasir 'Arafat: We have put our lives in jeopardy from the very first moment of our revolution. We envy those who preceded us on the road to martyrdom. We vie with one another and ask God for this honor. Many martyrs have fallen. This has not resulted from a void, but through this continuous fierce war between us and this enemy.

Question: The enemy which incessantly stigmatizes you with terrorism?

Yasir 'Arafat: Those who stigmatize us with terrorism are those who carry out terrorism in the open and within the sight and hearing of the international public. Unfortunately, we are not fighting Israel only, but also the United States which ignores or closes its eyes to the terrorism Israel perpetrates against our sons, children, and women, which falsely or mistakenly supports Israel's logic of odious aggression, and which talks about the rights of a dissident in the Soviet Union who is one of its spies. In spite of this, it raises a hue and cry for his sake.

The issue is not whether one is right or wrong, but that we are facing an arrogant power which wants to impose its logic with fire, terrorism, and steel. However, they are stupid. History shows that no power has succeeded in maintaining power with the logic of force. Where are all the dictatorships in the world?

Where is Hitler and Mussolini? What about British, French, Portuguese, and Spanish colonialism? They no longer exist, but the people still exist. We are with the course of history while the others run counter to it. That's why victory will be the lot of these children, who I call the new generals of the Palestinian revolution, whether they are generals of the stones or of the RPG's. As I told you at the beginning of this interview, the war between us and Israel has its ups and downs. Its indiscriminate blows against our citizens will rebound against it in terms of calamities. We will escalate the uprising and intensify it against the forces of terrorism and injustice.

PLO's 'Arafat Condemns Nicosia Car Bomb Blast

NC1305151988 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1500 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to President Yeoryios Vasiliou condemning the bomb explosion which occurred in Nicosia 2 days ago. 'Arafat also conveyed to President Vasiliou his condolences for the victims of the explosion.

'Arafat Says 138 Wounded in Al-Aqsa Clashes

JN1405153788 Baghdad INA in English 1513 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 14, INA—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has called upon the international community to immediately move to apply Geneva agreements on protecting the Palestinian people inside the occupied authorities. [as received]

Speaking at a press conference here today, Mr. 'Arafat said that sacred places of Muslims and Christians had been infringed by the Zionist occupation forces pointing out that occupation authorities yesterday, during the Friday prayers, moved more than 4,000 heavily armed soldiers supported by helicopter to the site of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds.

Mr. 'Arafat said that the Zionist soldiers aggressed upon worshippers in the mosque using internationally prohibited gases and live and rubber bullets.

The Palestinian leader added that 138 Palestinians including a large number of women were wounded when Zionist helicopter gunships opened fire on the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque's yard using machineguns.

Mr. 'Arafat stated that he had sent urgent messages to the chairman of the Islamic summit, the U.N. secretary-general, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, secretary of the Arab League and the pope asking them to immediately work for protecting Islamic and Christian sanctities against barbaric Zionist crimes.

Mr. 'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian people uprising would further be intensified despite Zionist measures on sealing Gaza Strip, Al-Quds, Nabulus and other Palestinian villages and camps.

Salah Khalaf on PLO-Syria Ties, U.S. Plan

JN1305100888 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 May 88 p 9

[Interview with Fatah second-in-command Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by AL-ITTIHAD and Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR; place, date not given]

[Text] Question: Have the bridges of confidence and reconciliation now been built between you and Syria, especially since the latter had set two basic conditions for reconciliation with you; namely, severance of your relations with Egypt and suspension of any further contact with Israeli leftist factions? What exactly has taken place on this matter?

Khalaf: First and foremost, the dialogue with Syria did not begin after the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and his funeral in Syria. It began before that in the form of indirect talks in Tunis which later led to the direct talks in the recent meeting betwen 'Arafat and President al-Asad and his Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. We can say now that a new page has been turned in the relations between us and Syria.

In all honesty I say that no conditions were set for this meeting or for any future relations with Syria. True, they have their own viewpoints concerning Cairo and the Israeli forces, but they have not considered them conditions for relations between the PLO and Syria. The proof was that we met with the Syrians without severing or freezing relations with Cairo or the Israeli forces.

Question: Is it possible that these two viewpoints have been shelved for the present time and that they might come up again as a precondition for establishing any closer ties between the PLO and Syria?

Khalaf: Since our Syrian brothers have not raised the matter during the first meeting, I do not think it will come up again as a precondition. True, they say they differ with us on the subject of Cairo and the Israeli forces, but this difference has not been produced as a condition for strengthening mutual relations. We have drawn up a program concerning the need for cooperation, dialogue, and agreement on the points we differ on. The dialogue we agreed on was on supporting and developing the uprising and standing by our people in the occupied territory.

There was absolute agreement on this matter. We also agreed to confront the U.S. initiatives, which aim to strangle and liquidate the uprising, as well as any other initiative which seeks a solution that does not lead to the Palestinian people's national rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of our independent state.

Question: Does this mean Syria tacitly adopts the PLO position, which is total rejection of Shultz's recent peace mission?

Khalaf: We understood from the meetings that Syria is against the Shultz mission, because it believes that the initiative has not produced anything new concerning the Palestinian national rights. We understand from our Syrian brothers that they are against this initiative and that they share our opinion and analysis that this initiative does not create the right atmosphere for a real settlement and peace.

Question: After your recent talks with Syria did you decide to hold further rounds of talks?

Khalaf: When we departed Damascus, we left behind a delegation under Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] to resume the talks with the Syrians. The talks are continuing. Naturally, these meetings will be followed by other meetings, God willing.

Question: This means there is no split now between the PLO and any of the pro-Syrian Palestinian factions, especially the PNSF?

Khalaf: The PNSF still holds to its position. We agreed that our Syrian brothers will clear the way for an agreement with this faction. The PLO delegation has remained in Damascus for the special task of meeting with these factions individually, not as a single front. This is because our attitude toward the Fatah dissidents is different. They are a rancorous group which has undermined every unity attempt. They must be held accountable and they must clarify their position before the PNC. As for the rest, we are ready to start a dialogue with our brothers in Al-Sa'iqah and the PFLP-GC. I repeat: The dissidents are a different case, which must be tackled by the PNC.

Question: An invitation has gone out to Yasir 'Arafat for some time now to visit Jordan. The fact that the visit has not taken place up to now could mean there are still some problems and sensitivities between Jordan and the PLO. What is your opinion?

Khalaf: There are no problems or sensitivities between us and Jordan. The visit can take place at any time. But this is left to Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] circumstances, programs, and activities.

Question: It was said that last month's Security Council resolution, which condemned Israel for its violation of Tunisia's sovereignty and security, was weak. What is your opinion?

Khalaf: I believe this resolution's weakness is basically due to the U.S. stand which, since the beginning of the uprising, has taken the line of not supporting any resolution against Israel even if Israel is involved up to its ears in any crime. Hence, there came this weak resolution in the passive voice. The doer was not named, as though Abu Jihad were killed with stones hurled at him from the sky. The resolution was weak. It was further weakened by the U.S. decision to abstain from voting on condition that Israel was not mentioned in the resolution.

Nevertheless, public opinion considered it an indirect condemnation of Israel. Nevertheless, too, the resolution was weak and highlighted the Security Council's impasse as a result of the veto imposed on it. Hence, world public opinion and the Third World countries in particular should cancel this veto as it obstructs the march of the Security Council as a world moral and material power.

Question: Has it been categorically proven to you—after this has been confirmed by events and developments—that the United States was not serious in its peace move and that Shultz' mission was aimed only at strangling and assassinating the spirit of the uprising?

Khalaf: We are sure about this because the one who wants to present an initiative responding to this great uprising and those martyrs and wounded is not supposed to ignore the basic element in the Middle East question, that is, the PLO and the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to their homeland. Contrary to this, the initiative made no mention at all of any of these basic principles, but talked about a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and about borders between Israel and Jordan.

It also did not mention the Palestinian people nor their hopes and aspirations, except with a general word on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, one of whose prominent features might be autonomy, knowing the Americans and the way they understand these legitimate rights.

Hence, Shultz' basic plan was meant to rescue Israel from the impasse caused by the uprising. It was also an attempt to depict the United States to the world as if it were moving and not remaining idle. I do not think any Arab country Shultz visited agreed with what Shultz proposed or was convinced of his ideas, as proved by the fact his three tours failed. Such tours will not succeed as long as the United States continues to ignore the crux and essence of the issue, that is, the Palestinian people's cause.

Question: One of the meanings of the assassination of Abu Jihad was that there is no chance at all to recognize the PLO, not to mention negotiating it. It meant the blowing up of all peace opportunites.

Khalaf: Shultz' initiative has abandoned all of these principled issues. Therefore, any U.S. move cannot serve peace nor lead to a just and comprehensive settlement as long as it continues to insist on ignoring these fundamentals in any settlement. These fundamentals are the PLO and the Palestinian people's national rights.

Question: This means you do not believe there is an opportunity to hold an international conference this year because in fact the circumstances are not appropriate?

Khalaf: I do not believe this year is the year of an international conference. Also, I do not believe anything will happen in view of this year's Israeli and U.S. elections. Moreover, I do not pin high hopes on the results of these elections. On the contrary, I am not optimistic regarding any new U.S. Administration or any new Israeli government at present. I believe the scales of a settlement cannot be topped in our favor as Arabs and that a just, comprehensive settlement cannot be realized unless the Arab front is strong.

It is true the uprising is a strong factor, yet it alone is not enough and should be supported by genuine Arab solidarity that can adopt both the war option and the peace potion. Only then can we proceed on the road to a settlement in a greater and better way.

Question: Following the recent Geneva agreement on Afghanistan, can rapprochement between the two superpowers bring about a solution to the Palestine question or can there be a deal on this particular question to peddle agreements between the two superpowers on other issues?

Khalaf: I believe rapprochement between the two superpowers undoubtedly has practical aspects regarding the reduction of world tension, removing the threat of a world war, and reducing the risk of launching devastating missiles by both parties. We should mention this positive aspect regardless of our stand toward the United States. The second point is that the solution to the Afghan problem is a resolution of one of the regional problems of interest to both superpowers.

I believe this may help resolve the Middle East issue. However, given that some people say a deal was concluded at the expense of the Afghans, as leaflets of the Afghan mujahidin read, one hopes such a deal will not be concluded on the Middle East issue, especially since Abu 'Ammar's visit to Moscow last month and his meeting with Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders were excellent and positive. Moreover, there was a dotting of the i's and crossing of the t's regarding the basic principles of any settlement. The Soviet Union was committed to these principles.

This is one of our guarantees that should be maintained because the other party, namely, the United States, does not recognize any of our rights nor does it recognize that the PLO is the party that represents the Palestinian people. Therefore, we believe solving the Afghan problem will help resovle our cause because it is one of the hotbeds in the world and region. Consequently, this will help concentration on a solution to the Middle East issue.

Question: Is it true that the Soviet Union, during Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Moscow, asked the PLO to recognize Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a major basis for any international conference which may be held in the region?

Khalaf: The Soviet Union raised these two resolutions. However, it also noted they are related to the Arab states and Israel and do not deal with the Palestinian people's rights. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union said these are still UN resolutions, but based on the fact there are national rights for the Palestinian people, represented by the right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state, the Soviet Union asked the PLO to recognize these two resolutions but also put the Palestinian people's national rights alongside them on condition that the two resolutions and Palestinian rights be both recognized at the same time as a basis for an international conference. Frankly, this is what we demand.

Question: Back to the uprising and the international terrorism being launched by Israel, I would like to say that following the assassination of Abu Jihad some feared that this would prompt the PLO to cancel the Cairo Declaration. How true is this?

Khalaf: No, we strongly adhere to the Cairo Declaration and will not relinquish it under any circumstances. Despite Israel's numerous attempts to make us cancel the Cairo Declaration, we will not do so. Over the past 2 years Israel has been trying to drag us into operations abroad. It wants this to bring back to mind that period in the 1970's when aircraft were hijacked and some operations were carried out abroad. However, we have abided by our decision not to work abroad since 1974. In 1985 we stressed our abidance by that following the "Achille Lauro" incident and some unintentional acts which the Americans and Israelis tried to exploit.

Therefore, we reiterated our abidance by the 1974 decision in the Cairo Declaration which emphasized that operations would cease and be replaced by a firm reply, but the reply now would be through the escalation and continuation of the uprising. This means the reply would come through operations inside and not outside the occupied territories. I tell Israel we will not again be dragged into any operations abroad no matter how hard it tries and our adherence to the Cairo Declaration will continue.

Question: But Israel is practicing liquidation and exhaustion operations of your human energies. Is this not enough to justify retaliation against it whether inside or outside the occupied territories?

Khalaf: It is true there is a clause in the Cairo Declaration emphasizing our commitment not to operate abroad as long as the other party, that is Israel, abides by the same clause. It is likewise true that what Israel did and is doing is a disregard of this clause and a violation of this commitment. It is also true that since the Cairo Declaration to date at least seven of our people met martyrdom outside the occupied territories. Consequently, we were entitled to carry out operations abroad, but we said we were committed to the Cairo Declaration and we would not be dragged into any operations outside the occupied territories.

Question: By its recent attempt to drag the PLO into carrying out fedayeen operations outside the occupied territories, Israel seeks to undermine the PLO's effort to establish a real peace.

Khalaf: Praised be God that their recent operation has not led to what they wanted. Israel might have succeeded on a technical and material level, but their operation was a large theatrical in which they lost a great deal because the Palestinian people do not fear death. On the contrary, when the fighting child or youth feels that there are leaders falling with him, his morale will be further boosted and his sacrifices will be greater. We do not have a so-called high bourgeois leadership which does not go down to the level of sacrifices.

All are exposed to danger. Abu Jihad was pursued for 25 years and only recently did they succeed in doing something. Following the assassination of Abu Jihad, there was an abortive attempt to assassinate one of our men in Athens. We say the tension Israel is creating abroad is aimed at dragging us into carrying out operations there, something which will not happen. I would like to emphasize that we will not be dragged into this trap and will not carry out operations abroad. Nevertheless, patience has limits.

Algeria

Government Offers Mediation on U.S. Hostages

PM1305084788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 88 pp 1,2

[Zaki Musa report: "Algeria Willing To Mediate Release of U.S. Hostages in Lebanon"]

[Excerpt] Rabat, London—Algerian official sources confirmed yesterday Algeria's willingness to mediate in the release of the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon if asked officially by the United States to do so. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the Algerian offer stems from humanitarian motives, the aim being to save the lives of innocent hostages.

These assurances came in the wake of reports that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Whitehead, who is touring the Arab Maghreb states, intends to raise this issue with Algerian officials.

They pointed out that the Algerian Government has gained some experience in such matters through its mediation between Tehran and Washington for the release of the hostages held at the U.S. Embassy in the early days of the Khomeyni regime, its mediation for the release of the hostages aboard the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah" 3 weeks ago, and its mediation with the kidnappers of the French charge d'affaires in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, as a result of which he was later released. Furthermore, the Algerian Government has enjoyed the confidence and trust of all the parties concerned because of its seriousness since the beginning of the Algerian revolution.

The Algerian sources refused to say whether or not the U.S. official has made inquiries about the fate of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane "Al-Jabiriyah" and their destination. They just said that "Algeria cannot allow anyone to interfere in this matter because it is a matter of sovereignty and the authorities are entitled to deal with it in the manner they deem fit. It can be said, nevertheless, that Algeria involved itself in this matter for humanitarian reasons and, in so doing, prevented harm to innocent people." [passage omitted]

Egypt

Gasoline Price To Increase 10 Piasters Per Liter

NC1405220788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that it has been decided to increase the price of gasoline by 10 piasters per liter. A responsible petroleum source said this increase represents a consumption tax which was implemented on the basis of a republican decree which was issued today.

The increase will become effective as of midnight.

Morocco

MAP Interviews Israel's Foreign Minister

LD1205134888 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 12 May 88

[Excerpt] Madrid May 12 (MAP)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has described King Hassan II of Morocco as "one of the few heads of state of our era who sincerely seek a solution to the Middle East problem without willing to take a whatever [as received] personal interest".

Peres who was interviewed Wednesday by MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY, "MAGHREB ARABE PRESSE" Bureau in Madrid said in reply to a question about efforts aiming at solving the Middle East crisis, after his meeting two years ago in Ifrane (a mountain resort in central Morocco) with King Hassan II, that "there has been no progress since then, for he added, the way to peace is very long and full of obstacles". He however conceded that the monarch's contribution has been very important.

The leader of the Israeli Labor Party was attending the works of the Council of the International Socialist. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives U.S. Envoy Whitehead

LD1205220588 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 May 88

[Excerpt] This evening at the Royal Court, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received John Whitehead, U.S. assistant secretary of state, who was accompanied by his delegation and by his country's ambassador to Rabat, Thomas Nassif.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki, and by Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs.

John Whitehead arrived in Rabat this evening on a short visit to Morocco. [passage omitted]

Sudan

DUP Reportedly Withdraws From Cabinet Talks

JN1305104188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced that his new Cabinet will be declared tomorrow—Saturday—amid news reports saying the Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" has withdrawn from the negotiations, currently in progress for forming the government.

The daily "AL-AYYAM" issued here today confirmed that leader of the "DUP" Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani and the delegates representing the party in the round talks for forming the national reconciliation government have withdrawn from the talks.

The "DUP", the second parliamentary group in the Constituent Assembly has withdrawn from the negotiations of the government in protest against the refusal of Al-Ummah Party granting them the post of Interior Ministry.

New Government Sworn in; Ministers Named

JN1605091888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (WAKH) — The new national reconciliation government in Sudan was sworn in before State Council Vice Chairman Idris al-Banna and the Council members last night. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Democratic Unionist Party leader, Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani. The new Sudanese Cabinet consists of the following:

— Retired General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, minister of defense;

— Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, minister of foreign affairs;

— Dr Hassan 'Abdullah al-Turabi, minister of justice and attorney general;

— Dr al-Fatih al-Tijani, minister of agriculture and natural resources;

— Bakri Ahmad 'Adil, minister of energy and mining;

— Salah al-Din 'Abd al-Salam al-Khalafah, minister of cabinet affairs;

— Eng Mahmud Bashir Jamma', minister of irrigation and water resources;

— Dr Al-Shaykh Mahjub, minister of higher education and scientific research;

— Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, minister of finance and economic planning;

— Richard Macobi [name as received], minister of regional coordination and local government planning;

— Dr Awhaj Muhammad Musa [name as received], minister of health;

— Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Uthman, minister of industry;

— Dr 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad Adam, minister of internal trade, cooperation, and supply;

— Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil al-Mahdi, minister of economy and foreign trade;

— Isma'il Abkar, minister of animal wealth;

— Aldo Ago Deng, minister of transportation;

— Dr Taj al-Sirr Mustafa 'Abd al-Salam, minister of public communications;

— 'Uthman 'Umar 'Ali al-Muhami, minister of public works and housing planning;

— Masior Abor [name as received], minister of labor;

— 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad Hasan, minister of culture and information;

— Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad, minister of social welfare and refugee affairs;

— Joshua Diwal [name as received], minister of youth and sports;

— Hasan Shabbu, minister of relief and evacuees;

— Fadlallah 'Ali Fadlallah, minister of public service and administrative reform;

— 'Abd al-Malik al-Ju'li, minister of religious affairs; and

— Amin Bashir Fallin, minister of tourism, hotels, and aviation.

The interior minister has not yet been named.

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi issued a decree today appointing Angelo Bida [name as received] as speaker of the Southern Council. He had earlier issued a decree stipulating that the Southern Council speaker should be a cabinet member, in addition to his other tasks at the Southern Council.

3 Explosions in Khartoum; Arrests Made

NC1505223788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 May (MENA)—Three successive explosions occurred in three areas of Khartoum this evening.

The first explosion took place at the Acropole Hotel at 2010 Khartoum time; the second explosion occurred immediately afterward at the Sudan Club; the third explosion took place nearby. An interval of approximately 5 minutes separated each explosion.

Explosive devices caused the three blasts, which resulted in some damage to the Acropole Hotel and the Sudan Club. Additionally, it is estimated that five persons have been killed and a number of others wounded. They have been taken to hospitals for treatment.

The Sudanese police are investigating the incidents. A number of persons carrying firearms have been arrested and are now being interrogated.

Meanwhile, there were no casualties among the Egyptian nationals staying at the Acropole Hotel because they were not in the hotel at the time, but were attending a Ramadan dinner with the Egyptian community in Khartoum.

'At Least' 7 Killed

JN1605104388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 15 (SUNA) — At least seven people were killed and several others injured at a central Khartoum hotel following an unidentified explosion SUNA learnt.

Those killed were four Europeans, a woman, a child and two men, and the fifth a Sudanese child, eyewitnesses said and added that those wounded included two Americans, two Dutch, two Canadians and a British.

The explosion took place at the hotel's restaurant at dinner time but so far no details are available.

The Acropole Hotel is an attractive accommodation for Europeans visiting the country particularly journalists.

Meanwhile, almost at the same time there was a fire exchange at the nearby British Sudan Club where at least one man was killed and another one injured.

Khartoum Airport Closed 'Until Further Notice'

NC1505224188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 May (MENA)—As of 2100 this evening, the Khartoum airport was closed to all departing and arriving aircraft, until further notice.

Airport Reopens

NC1605103488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (MENA)—The Khartoum airport has reopened for all incoming and outgoing Sudanese and international flights as of 0930 today.

Agreement Reached With Ethiopia on Security

JN1505115288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1148 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 15 (SUNA) — The Sudanese-Ethiopian Technical Committee is due to conclude its meetings here Sunday evening and issue the final statement on question related to Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

An official source at the Sudanese side said the committee has discussed all issues regarding the relations between the two countries and reached agreement on solving problems facing the relations of the two countries. The two sides have reached security agreement to solve the security problems and tension between them, the source pointed out, adding that the agreement will organize the border security, and the border trading between the two countries.

He said, the agreement will be submitted to the meeting of the ministerial committee scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa on May 17 to approve it.

The source underlined that the two countries have agreed to normalize the tension between them.

On the other hand Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met here Saturday with the Ethiopian delegation and discussed with them bilateral relations and ways of promoting them further.

The technical committee started its meetings last Thursday and held three rounds of talks and deliberated all questions regarding the Sudanese Ethiopian relations.

The Ethiopian delegation will leave here for Addis Ababa next Tuesday.

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam will meet on the sidelines of the summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) late May, and will discuss the final report reached by the ministerial committee.

USSR Seeks Help in Release of Hostages

JN1505132488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 15 (SUNA) — The Soviet Union asked Sudanese Government to intensify efforts to release three Soviet military experts abducted by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea during an attack launched last March by the forces of the Popular Front against one of commandos the Ethiopian Army daily newspaper AL-AYYAM reported today.

The paper said that the Soviet deputy foreign minister who visited Sudan recently said that Soviet Government has no influence on the Eritrean factions but it supports any humanitarian action to solve this problem.

Toposa Chief Reportedly Supports SPLA
LD1105200188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] Sultan and paramount chief of Toposa, Yusuf Iko, has reported himself to SPLA Kapoeta civil administration on 1 May 1988. He was accompanied by many elders of Toposa. Sultan Yusuf Iko gave his support and support of Toposa people to the SPLA and called upon Toposa people to rally behind SPLM/SPLA for defense of Kapoeta.

Sultan Yusuf called upon Toposa, Buya, and Didinga to stop raiding of cattle immediately. He called upon Toposa youths to join SPLA immediately and youths have reported to the call within 24 hours, with their rifles, and more are following in. He did traditional blessing by killing a bull in Kapoeta. The occasion of this reception and welcoming to SPLM/SPLA was celebrated with dances. Sultan, Uncle Yusuf Iko, was welcomed on behalf of SPLM/SPLA leader John Garang de Mabior, by Commander Kuol Manyang Juk. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Crush Attempts To Destroy Bridges
JN1205121488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Khartoum May 12 (SUNA)—The Armed Forces crushed rebels' attempts to destroy some bridges in the Equatoria Region, southern Sudan, last week.

The rebels' plan aimed at destroying all bridge links between Juba and Torit.

The plan targeted bridges of Kutin, Khawr al-Dulayb [name as received], Olo between Kabala and Torit—18 miles eastern Torit [as received] for destruction.

Tunisia

President Pardons Islamic Leader, Others
LD1405153988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has issued a presidential pardon for Rached Ghannouchi [leader of the Islamic Tendency Movement] who was sentenced to hard labor for life by the State Security Court on 27 September 1987, and also for 233 convicted people, remitting their remaining sentences.

During a working session held this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage, with the participation of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, the minister of state in charge of justice, the minister of the interior, and the director of the prisons and reform services, the president decided to restore civic rights to 1,154 people sentenced for various offenses, and to grant a conditional discharge to 250 prisoners.

U.S. Diplomat Arrives, Meets Foreign Minister
LD1205142088 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri met this morning with John Whitehead, U.S. assistant secretary of state, who arrived yesterday in Tunisia on a working visit as part of a tour of Maghreb countries.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Pelletreau, Jr, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia.

Algeria's Messaadia Arrives, Delivers Message
LD1305023588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN, arrived in Tunis tonight in connection with the initiative to convene an Arab summit in Algiers on 7 June. He handed a message to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Chad Envoy Delivers Habre Message to President
LD1205135788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 88

[text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre. The message was conveyed to his excellency this morning by Mr Korom Ahmed, special envoy of the Chadian president.

Following the audience, which was also attended by Mr Hedi Baccouche, Mr Korom Ahmed said that this message is related to the friendly and fraternal relations between the Republics of Tunisia and Chad. He added that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali asked him to convey his friendly regards to President Hissein Habre.

Bahrain

Amir, Foreign Minister Receive Iranian Envoy

Message From Khamene'i

JN1405205288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Manama, 14 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mostafa Haeri-Fumani delivered the message when his highness the amir of Bahrain received him here this evening.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, and Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Interior Ministry assistant under secretary for immigration and passport affairs. The Iranian ambassador arrived in Manama this evening on a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

Amir Criticizes 'Superpowers'

LD1505163788 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Bahrain's ruler blamed presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf as a factor for escalation of tension in the region.

Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to the U.A.E. Mostafa Fumani-Haeri in Manama Saturday evening.

Haeri is currently here to hold talks with Bahraini officials.

The superpowers only care for their own interests and are prepared to set the region afire for their benefits, he said.

Al Khalifah also stressed on the need for expansion of cooperation between Iran and Bahrain.

In another development, the Iranian ambassador today met Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and handed him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Views were exchanged at the meeting on Tehran-Manama relations, crisis in the Persian Gulf, ways for establishing tranquility as well as regional cooperations.

Message From Velayati

JN1505104288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Manama, 15 May (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah has received a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the current regional developments. The message was conveyed by Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mostafa Haeri-Fumani during a meeting with Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah today.

The meeting was attended by 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, director of the Political Department at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry, and 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hasan, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry's office.

UAE Minister Departs for Rabat After Visit

JN1305130188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Manama, 13 May (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, has left Manama for Rabat after a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

In a predeparture statement, Rashid 'Abdallah told WAKH that he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, dealing with the current concerns and problems in our region and in the greater Arab homeland as well as issues of mutual interest.

He added that the message is part of the coordination and consultations among the GCC leaders under the crucial circumstances facing the Arabian Gulf region, which call for the exchange of viewpoints on all matters of concern to the GCC states.

Rashid 'Abdallah said his visit to Bahrain was a good opportunity to hold talks with Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, on issues of interest to the GCC states and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

He asserted that the GCC states have the same views on all points that favor the GCC member states, thanks to the instructions of the GCC leaders and their interest in enhancing the march of GCC cooperation and serving the causes of our Arab nation.

Saudi Arabia

King Receives Bendjedid Message on Arab Summit

LD1305225888 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, received a message from his brother Chadli Bendjedid, his excellency the Algerian president, which includes an invitation to him to attend the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Algeria.

The message was delivered by Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, his excellency the Algerian foreign minister, when he was received by the king in his office at Al-Safa Palace in Mecca this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and Abdelkarim Ghraieb, the Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom. His Excellency the Algerian foreign minister later departed.

He was seen off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal; Salim Sunbul, director general of the Foreign Ministry branch in Jeddah, a representative of the royal protocol; and members of the Algerian Consulate.

Ziaul Haq Departs After Pilgrimage 14 May

LD1405165488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 May 88

[Excerpt] Al Madinah, 14 May (SPA)—His Excellency the Pakistani president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, left holy Al-Madinah before noon today after a visit to the Kingdom, during which he performed the minor pilgrimage and visited the holy prophet's mosque. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Daily Terms U.S. Veto 'Outrageous Insult'

JN1305132788 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 13 May 88 p 1

[Editorial: "An Arab Veto Is Needed"]

[Text] The recent U.S. veto, which challenged the will of the United nations and prevented a mere moral condemnation of the Israeli aggression on fraternal Lebanon, did not add much to the true U.S. image in the eyes of the Arab world. All it did was to assert a fact that all Arabs knew, namely, that it is useless to imagine any change in U.S. policy and that they have to reckon with the fact that Washington will continue, for a long time, to pursue the policies, stands, and behavior of the Israeli enemy.

However, this U.S. veto yesterday in the Security Council affirms another fact: The Israeli aggression on Lebanon was not only carried out with U.S. weapons but also with the knowledge and blessing of the United States, which has assigned itself the role of defender and protector of Israeli truculence.

Security Council documents reveal that the United States has used the veto for the benefit of Israel more times than it has used it on all other issues combined.

The only explanation for this is that the United States places its collusion with Israel above any other consideration, even if this affects its position and reputation as a major power.

It seems that the United States persists in ignoring the other side of its stand toward Israel, which means constant aggression toward the Arabs, their interests, and their just cause.

In fact, this goes beyond aggression and reaches the point of constant, repetitive, and outrageous insult, because it implies degrading indifference toward the Arab world and an infinite belief that there will be no reaction on our part.

Those who are pushing U.S. policy in this direction, either to satisfy the Zionist lobby or laboring under its influence, are committing a big mistake regarding long-term U.S. interests.

Time will prove this when there will be an Arab veto telling the United States, "No! This is rejected."

President Returns After Talks With King Husayn

JN1505074888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn returned here early this morning at the end of a short visit to Jordan lasting several hours. During the visit, President Saddam Husayn held talks with King Husayn of Jordan on the latest developments in the Arab arena, the Iraq-Iran war, and fraternal bilateral relations.

The talks, which were held in Al-Nadwah Palace in Amman, were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan. For Jordan, the talks were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; and Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Upon arrival in Amman, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn was accorded a great official reception ceremony led by His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal. A number of high-ranking Jordanian officials participated in the reception ceremony.

The Iraqi and Jordanian national anthems were played. Then, his excellency the president and His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the guards of honor which represented the ranks of the Jordanian Armed Forces. His Majesty King Husayn hosted a great iftar banquet in honor of his brother President Saddam Husayn. The banquet was attended by the members of the Iraqi delegation accompanying President Saddam Husayn, ranking Jordanian officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

At the conclusion of his visit to Jordan, President Saddam Husayn was accorded an official sendoff ceremony led by His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Also on hand to see the president off were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; a number of Cabinet ministers; senior military and civil officials; and the Iraqi ambassador in Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan has voiced his deep happiness and pleasure over His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's visit to Jordan and also over his meeting with the president.

In a statement to INA correspondent in Amman after the iftar banquet his majesty the king hosted in honor of his excellency the president and the delegation accompanying him, the king said: Words cannot express my feelings toward my brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, who was honored and pleased us with this visit which I consider an honor to Jordan in general and to me personally.

His Majesty King Husayn prayed to Almighty God to protect His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and to help him succeed in leading the heroic Iraqi people. His majesty told the INA correspondent that Iraq's continued victories are victories for all Arabs and the Arab homeland. His majesty the king indicated that he discussed with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn all topics and issues that are of concern to the Arab nation, and added: Our stand is, as a matter of fact, a unified one.

'Aziz Departs on Official Visit to GDR 15 May

JN1505133388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for the GDR today on an official visit at the invitation of his GDR counterpart Oskar Fischer.

Tariq 'Aziz will hold talks with the officials there on bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all spheres. He will also discuss the latest developments of the Iranian aggression against Iraq, the international efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war and bring about peace in the region, as well as issues of common interest to both states.

Ramadan on Al-Faw, UN Security Council

JN1405134588 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 14, INA—Iraq has given through the Al-Faw liberation operation a new history and a new case in regaining the occupied Arab land by force and not begging and wishes through the organizations and other states. That was announced by Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's first deputy premier in a press interview with the Iraqi daily AL-IRAQ.

He said that Al-Faw liberation indicated for the first time in modern history that an Arab city was regained by force from the occupiers. He added that Iraq does not demand for the liberation of any inch of occupied Arab land through begging or through international organizations.

Mr Ramadan stressed that the Iranian rulers must think now obligatorily of the war future and must think and seek for a new state of ending the war through the path of peace after they had considered Al-Faw as one of the big targets to occupy Basra and finally Iraq.

Mr Ramadan said that the liberation of Al-Faw had revived the self confidence among the Iraqis and the Arabs everywhere, and it will have its impact on the

Arab future because the operation of Al-Faw liberation was a deep rooted shake of the Iraqi spirit and spread happiness among all good souls and put a beginning for a new stage.

Mr Ramadan wondered about the credibility of the UN Security Council and its major states, and said that this international organization has a story to prove at least its credibility. Although more than nine months had passed since the Resolution 598 was issued and the Security Council did not take any step to implement it, Mr Ramadan said.

He stressed that the countries which were occupied by force must not wait for the interference of the international organization because the right cannot be regained but by force with all due respect to this or that organization and our support of our dealing with it.

Iraq's first deputy premier said that Iran has become a symbol for international terrorism and that it imposes conditions and gets gains from states, who respect themselves, due to its illegitimate, illegal and immoral behaviour and it urges us to be flexible to confront the Iranian arrogance, "What kind of logic is this?", Mr Ramadan asked.

He added that the status of experting pressure on a state that respects international norms, laws and charters to satisfy a state that fights all values, laws and good behaviour is still existing with the superpowers more than the minor powers. He said that the peace-loving countries must contribute and act quickly and seriously to end the war.

Mr Ramadan said that Saudi Arabia's decision to cut the relations with Iran was a right and brave decision that was respected by all countries. He added that any attempt of flexibility with Iran's rulers and ignoring their interference in internal affairs is no more than delaying the evil occurence and aggression and not cancelling it. This is considered a service for the Iranian side to organize its plans to confront the Arab states one by one.

Concerning the treacherous behaviour of the Syrian rulers after Al-Faw liberation, Mr Ramadan said that every Arab side, organization, individual and state who does not feel happy after Al-Faw liberation is a traitor and deviating from the Arab nation.

Editor Urges Arabs 'To Isolate Syrian Regime'

JN1305122288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—The INA political editor today said that decisive political, military, and principled facts suggest the need to isolate the Syrian regime on the Arab level at the present time due to this regime's continued stands against the supreme pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation. Facts reveal that the Syrian regime is consolidating its alliance with the Arab nation's enemies. It is also increasing its coordination with these enemies against Iraq, the Palestine question, and the Lebanese people, thereby violating all Arab resolutions and charters.

Moreover, the Syrian regime, which established alliances with the enemies of both Iraq and the Arab nation, dubiously attempts to save and support the Iranian regime whenever it faces a military defeat at the hands of the brave Iraqi forces. The political editor also said the reception by the Syrian regime's leaders of the Iranian regime's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of Iranian agents following the utter defeat inflicted on the Iranian regime, through the Iraqis' liberation of Al-Faw, merely represents another attempt to rearrange their cards and alliance against pan-Arab security. This is absolute evidence of the treasonous alliance between the two regimes.

The INA political editor explained that the Syrian regime was not content only to collude with the Iranian regime in its aggression against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf states and to spread terrorist operations. It also continued its conspiracies against Lebanon and the Palestine question by kindling massacres against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in order to serve Zionist interests instead of extinguishing the fire of sedition in Lebanon.

He added that the Syrian regime promptly withdrew its forces and ordered its military commanders in Lebanon not to confront or harass the invading Zionist forces during the recent Zionist incursion [into southern Lebanon]. This regime does so whenever the Zionist forces enter Lebanese territory, thereby leaving the Lebanese people alone in the face of the Zionist forces despite this regime's empty claims that it is present in Lebanon to protect the Lebanese people. Moreover, the Syrian regime takes advantage of the undeclred truce with the Zionist entity to continue the repressive campaigns against Syrian citizens. It is also an ally of the Iranian ivnaders and instigates them to attack the Arabian Gulf states.

The INA political editor recalled the sinful Iranian crime committed in the holy mosque in Mecca in collusion with the Syrian regime. This is the same spirit of collusion with the Iranian regime in its aggression against Iraq. He said these shameful stands confirm that the Syrian regime is no longer fit to be part of the collective Arab action. Hence, Arabs who discover its alliances, treason, and crimes are dutybound to isolate it and keep it away from any Arab meeting after it has become a stumbling block on the road to joint Arab solidarity.

Presidential Guards Commander on Battle Strategy

LD1405100688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0844 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 14 (KUNA)—Commander of the Iraqi Presidential Guards, General Ayad al-Rawi, said here Saturday that the Iraqi leadership decided after the liberation of the Al-Faw Peninsula to adopt a new strategy against any Iranian offensive.

He added in an exclusive interview with Kuwait daily AL-QABAS that the Iraqi forces from now on will repulse any Iranian offensive with a counter attack in any place of the war front. He explained that this strategy bans Iran from massing its troops in one place in the front and pushes it to deploy its forces along the front, fearing the Iraqi counter attack.

Al-Rawi added that the plan of liberating the Al-Faw included the crossing to Abadan Peninsula where the Iranian ammunition is piled up, but the Iraqi Air Force were there first and destroyed the Iranian bridges erected on Shatt al-'Arab waterway.

He also noted that the Iraqi boats equipped with rocket launchers have participated in the attack against the Iranians. He pointed out that the Presidential Guards Corps has shouldered the biggest burden in the Al-Faw battle, affirming that the presence of these guards in any battle puts down the Iranian morales and makes them escape from the battle ground.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,176

JN1305173888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 88

[Communique No 3,176 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. With God's help, the planes of our heroic Air Force dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near Shaykh Sho'eyb Island [Lavan Island] yesterday, after which our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. With this target, our Air Force hunted three enemy maritime targets during the past 24 hours.

2. Fifteen scoundrels were killed, 3 infantry positions and a machinegun were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown in the I Army Corps northern sector. Four infantry positions were destroyed in the special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Seven assorted positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah spotted an enemy drone and downed it. Elsewhere in the same sector, a single-barreled machinegun and an infantry position were destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up.

4. Three enemy soldiers were killed, seven assorted positions were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. An observation post was destroyed an ammunition dump was blown up in the V Army Corps northern sector.

5. Four enemy soldiers were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris. Three vehicles were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

7. The criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the city of Basra today with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling caused damage to civilian property. We strongly warn the tyrant Iranian rulers against igniting the cities war once again. We stress that Iraq's patience will not continue for long. The Iranian rulers must bear the bad consequences of their evil actions.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 May 1988

Air Force Raids Larak Island

JN1405132088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1222 GMT 14 May 88

[Communique No 3,177 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 May]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great. Praise be to Him. [passage omitted] The Iranian regime still insists on continuing the war and aggression despite its defeats. This regime devotes its country's resources, especially oil, to aggression against Iraq, the Gulf states, and the Arab nation, instead of exploiting them in the interest of its hungry, naked people. This regime must receive continuous blows and the Iraqis will continue to challenge it in its most painful and, moreover, the most remote and complicated, areas..

At 1320 [0920 GMT] today, a very large number of our aircraft climbed the skies and flew more than 1,200 km away from our international border. Their sole destination was the remote Larak Island, near the Strait of Hormuz, south of the Arabian Gulf.

With precise command planning and brave and splendid performance by the rapacious air hawks, the large number of our planes managed to achieve complete surprise and to penetrate enemy air defenses. The hawks directed their bombs at the supertankers working in the island as a floating berth and reservoirs for loading tankers with the enemy oil. The bombs of truth pounded these tankers and set them on fire, leaving columns of smoke covering them. Afterward, the hawks safely and victoriously returned with all their planes, in God's care and protection. [passage omitted]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 May 1988

Lloyds Reports 4 Tankers Hit

JN1405153488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] London, 14 May (INA)—Lloyds Insurance has announced some details of the Iraqi fighter planes' attack on Iran's Larak Island. In a cable to the INA office in London, Lloyds said that the attack hit British supertanker "Burmah Endeavor;" Liberian tanker "Seawise Giant;" Spanish tanker "Barcelona," which began to sink after sustaining heavy damage and after 26 of its crewmen were saved from drowning; and Cypriot tanker "Argosi" in which a fire broke out which was difficult to extinguish.

Lloyds explained that fire broke out on the British supertanker "Burmah Endeavor". The tanker was built in 1977 and run by the Burmah for Tankers Company Limited, headquartered in London. It also explained that the Liberian tanker "Seawise Giant" weighs 238,558 tons when loaded, was built in 1976, and is run by the Island Shipping Company, headquartered in Hong Kong. The Spanish tanker "Barcelona" weighs 122,770 tons when loaded, was built in 1972, and is owned by the Filitta Mabintos Company, headquartered in Spain. The Cypriot tanker "Argosi" weighs 71,080 tons, was built in 1970, and is run by the Tsacos Company for Freight and Trading, headquartered in Piraeus.

54 Seamen Missing

NC1405132688 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 14 May 88

[Excerpt] Nicosia, May 14 (AFP)—Fifty-four seamen were missing after an attack Saturday on Iran's Larak Island oil terminal, in the southern Gulf, that damaged at least four tankers, the insurers Lloyds of London reported. Baghdad claimed responsibility for the raid, saying it was carried out by "a very great number of Iraqi planes," according to an Iraqi News Agency (INA) dispatch monitored here.

The missing include the entire 50-man crew of the 238,558-ton Liberian-registered supertanker "Seawise Giant," which was fully engulfed in flames after the attack, Lloyds said. The Spanish tanker "Barcelona" was sinking, Lloyds said. Four sailors aboard the 122,170-ton vessel were reported missing.

A smaller tanker moored alongside the "Seawise Giant," the 71,080-ton Cypriot vessel "Argosi," was also burning. The attack set ablaze the 231,029-ton British-flag supertanker "Burmah Endeavor," but that fire was brought under control, Lloyds said. The insurer provided no reports on the condition of the seamen aboard the "Argosi" and "Burmah Endeavor". [passage omitted]

Communique No 3,178

JN1405174588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 88

[Communique No 3,178 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces continued their combat activities for last night and today as follows:

1. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 23 scoundrels, destroyed 5 infantry positions, a DSHK machinegun, and 2 vehicles, and blew up an ammunition dump.

2. Four infantry positions and a gun emplacement were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces. Four scoundrels were killed, four various positions were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

3. A large vehicle was burned and a gun emplacement was destroyed in the VI Army Corps east of Tigris.

4. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: the destruction of eight infantry positions and the killing or wounding of their personnel; the destruction of a boat on the remote bank of Shatt al-'Arab and a gun emplacement, the blowing up of two ammunition dumps, and the killing of a scoundrel.

5. The brave Navy men spotted five enemy boats. Our naval units clashed with them and forced them to flee.

6. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 May 1988

'Very Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN1505053788 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0523 GMT 15 May 88

[Statement by a military spokesman issued 15 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of our efforts to cut off the oil supplies of the Iranian regime, which insists on continuing the war and the aggression, the planes of our Air Force last night launched a successful raid against a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast. After accurately and effectively hitting the target, our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 15 May 1988

Communique No 3,179

JN1505175288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 88

[Communique No 3,179 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is our units' activities last night and today:

1. The Iranian regime insists on war and aggression. To continue efforts to cut off their oil supplies, our Air Force planes launched a successful raid on a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast last night. After accurately and effectively hitting the target, our planes returned safely to their bases, God be praised.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: Killing 14 scoundrels, destroying 1 heavy machinegun and killing its occupants, and destroying 2 shovels [preceding word in English] and 5 various positions and wounding their occupants.

3. One infantry position was destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces—and one enemy personnel was killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

4. Three infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, and five scoundrels were killed, four vehicles were destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps front.

5. At 0548 [0148 GMT] today, two enemy planes tried to penetrate our international border in the Al-Sulaymaniyah governorate to attack residential areas in the township of Kallar. The criminal Iranian regime also directed its long-range artillery fire at residential areas in the township of Darband-i Khan. The two attacks wounded five civilians, including one child and one woman, and damaged civilian property. The Iranian rulers will pay a high price for these crimes and deliberate attempts to ignite the cities war. Swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 May 1988

Air Force Attacks Sidon Area 'Terrorist Base'

TA1605041688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Israeli planes last night attacked a terrorist base south of Sidon. The IDF spokesman said all the planes returned safely, and that the pilots reported direct hits on the target. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says a two-storey building in the area of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp beside Sidon was the target. Sources in Lebanon said the firing was aimed at bases belonging to Fatah, and that three people were wounded.

Last week Israeli planes carried out a night strike against Palestinian terrorists in the Al-Kharrub region north of Sidon.

2 Lebanese Fishermen Released Offshore

TA1305112788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Israel has released two Lebanese fishermen who were apprehended near Tyre by a Navy Dabur craft earlier this week. UN observers have told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that a Navy vessel stopped a Lebanese fishing boat yesterday and transferred the two fishermen.

Change in Soviet Consular Delegation Refused

TA1405075888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Israel refuses to permit a change in the makeup of the Soviet consular delegation here. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami says this is because the USSR is holding up the granting of visas to the Israeli delegation that is due to leave for Moscow.

The Soviet delegation is in fact being headed by the spokesman (Aleksey Maslov) as the head of the delegation, Georgiy Martirosov, left Israel some time ago. The Soviet delegation's visas expire in a month.

'Softening' Noted in Soviet Middle East Policy

TA1605052088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Bernard Josephs]

[Text] Signs that the Soviets are changing their Middle East policy and taking a more positive attitude towards Jewish emigration have been reported to Prime Minister Shamir by World Jewish Congress [WJC] President Edgar Bronfman, who flew directly to Jerusalem yesterday after meeting in Moscow with senior Kremlin officials.

Bronfman—who described his flight between the two capitals as "historic, the first of its kind"—handed a message to Shamir from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The message is bound to increase speculation that the two men will meet shortly, but the WJC leader would not reveal its contents.

Bronfman told the prime minister that during his weekend stay in the Russian capital he detected a "new, positive atmosphere" among the Soviet leadership. But last night it was clear that Shamir did not share the WJC president's upbeat assessment and Bronfman confessed during an interview at a press conference that "I'm not sure I understand the Israeli position. There are two Israeli positions."

Bronfman said that during his meetings with Shevardnadze, the Soviet position on the Middle East peace process "seemed to be softening." He continued: "The foreign minister made it quite clear that an international Middle East peace conference should be an 'umbrella' conference and there was no concept of forcing Israel or anyone else to do what they don't want to do."

There was a cool response to the Soviets' apparent shift of position from the prime minister, who is totally opposed to an international peace conference. Shamir's chief spokesman Avi Pazner said that the premier did not accept Bronfman's view of the Kremlin's position.

The fact that the Soviets, in their conversations with Bronfman, emphasized that they wanted the five members of the UN Security Council to take part in the peace talks "shows that this is a conference in which the large powers will decide upon a settlement and enforce it," he added.

Bronfman, who stressed that he did not act on behalf of the Israeli Government but was a "go-between," said that during his meeting with Shevardnadze the foreign minister had emphasized that 10,000 Jews had been allowed to leave the Soviet Union this year.

He said he had not discussed with the Soviet authorities the question of direct flights or of flights through Bucharest rather than Vienna.

"I am not sure it is a very good thing for Jews in the Soviet Union to demonstrate at this time when things are, after all, improving," Bronfman noted. Jewish demonstrations abroad were "okay" as long as they were not aimed at the Gorbachev regime, he added.

There was a "real probability" that the number of Jews allowed to leave the USSR would rise. And, he went on, as long as Gorbachev's reconstruction policies continued there was a "marvelous opportunity" for Jews in Russia to live "a full Jewish life."

At the same time, the WJC president warned that the Soviet leadership's liberal policies were under attack and if they were to fail, the result would be a return to

Stalinism. There was a tremendous rebirth of anti-Semitism in Russia and clearly Jewish interests were best served by a continuation of Gorbachev's rule.

Credentials Returned to U.S. Reporter Frankel

TA1505173288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] The Government Press Office [GPO] has returned the press credentials to Glenn Frankel, THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent in Israel. Frankel's credentials were taken from him because he published reports on the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] without permission from the military censor.

Frankel sent a letter to the GPO last week expressing his regret at what he called a misunderstanding over his failure to present his article for approval.

The credentials of NBC correspondent Martin Fletcher have still not been returned because the investigation into a censorship infringement by NBC, on the Israeli operation into Lebanon, has still not been completed.

Mitzna' Interviewed on Policy in West Bank

TA1305111088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 May 88

[Interview with Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, by Arye Gus on 13 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gus] Gen Mitzna', you have decided to reopen schools in Judaea and Samaria. These schools were shut down several months ago in light of the disturbances. Do you believe that this decision indicates that the calm is stable and will continue?

[Mitzna'] We decided to take action in the direction of reopening the schools. This is the decision in principle, while the final decision on the reopening will be made at a date closer to the actual opening time. We were asked to make this decision in principle because, as the schools have been closed for nearly 4 months, it is necessary to take certain preparatory measures to allow for studies to resume in an orderly fashion.

[Gus] Gen Mitzna', recently we have heard repeated declarations that the territories are calm or that a certain calm can be observed. Is this an actual statement of fact, or merely an illusion?

[Mitzna'] We can see a degree of moderation in the violent activity. There is no doubt about that. We have not engaged in or observed the kind of events that we saw at the height of the uprising. Whether this is a forced or contained calm or a process it is hard to tell. We, of course, must assess the situation daily, hourly. Right now, it is hard to tell. We have not scaled down our activity by one bit and are deploying the same order of battle to achieve a natural calm with a reasonable and acceptable level of security.

[Gus] It is true that large-scale disturbances have not occurred, but there are casualties every week, with some dead and others injured by IDF gunfire.

[Mitzna'] This is exactly what I was talking about. I said that we can still not see the kind of calm we want. There is still motivation [for unrest]. Nonetheless, I could say that the public at large is constantly evincing less and less readiness to comply with the calls to go out in the streets to stage violent demonstrations. At the same time, there are still people who take the risk of clashing with the security forces. They suffer casualties, although our soldiers observe the rules and regulations.

[Gus] What is happening in the more remote villages? Are there still so-called liberated villages?

[Mitzna'] I think it would be correct to say that at the moment, most of the villages—certainly those that made headlines recently—have calmed down and now understand the rules of the game better. There are nevertheless a few villages, which I would not call liberated, but places that we enter more infrequently. They still dare and permit themselves, from time to time, to raise the PLO flags or cordon themselves off and face a military force once it enters their village. We are trying to single these villages out and handle them too, according to our order of priorities.

[Gus] The circumstances of some of the deaths are still not clear. One example is the youth who was electrocuted when instructed to remove a flag from an electricity pole, or other cases in which the civilian population was hurt and yet the press has not yet received satisfactory answers as to the cause of death.

[Mitzna'] As you know, we carry out very thorough and objective investigations of every fatality. Some cases remain unclear for an extended period of time, perhaps even indefinitely. Others take us time to crack. As for the case you mentioned of the boy who was electrocuted in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, we know what caused his death, but we are still not so sure about who was responsible for issuing the order to the youth to climb up the pylon to remove the flag. This aspect is still undetermined. Whatever our conclusions, we have, of course, learned our lesson and disseminated this among the units deployed in the area to stop anyone from issuing instructions—whether at his own initiative or not—that endanger lives. This is the lesson we have learned.

[Gus] Gen Mitzna', part of the measures you have employed against the local population are of an economic nature, others are security measures such as extended curfews or blockades. Do these harsh measures not conflict with the trend to effect normalization? Do they not in themselves undermine the efforts to achieve this normalization?

[Mitzna'] No doubt in the long run, part of our activity could involve risks, the limiting of freedom, or negative trends. Yet one must always bear in mind that we sometimes have to deal with emergency situations. Under these circumstances, one sometimes has to employ measures whose sole purpose is to extract oneself from that state of emergency, cool the atmosphere. It is almost like medication prescribed to a sick man which you know is harmful but which you nevertheless give him, knowing you will ultimately have to deal with its effects. The same applies to some of the measures we employ.

We devote a lot of thought to the matter. To wit, the series of means and moves we have recently employed really aims at indicating to and encouraging those strata that desire a normal life to the extent that this is possible that the light at the end of the tunnel can be seen. For our part, we are definitely prepared to move on to that stage. We have no plans for revenge or for exacting a penalty. Our job, mission, and goal is to bring about calm in the area.

[Gus] Today you will be releasing a couple of hundred detainees on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, which marks the end of the month of Ramadan. The question is whether the release of these detainees is not a repetition of sorts of the release of terrorists in 1985 and whether this move could not contribute to further agitation?

[Mitzna'] You raised a question we have deliberated quite extensively. No doubt a risk is involved. At the same time, I want it to be absolutely clear: We are releasing no one who engaged in hostile terrorist activity or anyone who participated in grave incidents. We are only releasing people we have grounds to believe, on the basis of some serious thinking, could thereby contribute to calm. The risk exists nevertheless, just as it exists in every move we make—lenient or harsh.

[Gus] Speaking of detainees, there have been rumors about the existence of a special lockup facility for juveniles. Are they founded?

[Mitzna'] I am glad you are giving me this opportunity to answer that question. The contention is absolutely groundless. Recently we have released from detention nearly 100 youths aged between 14 and 16. Very few who simply took part in serious acts are still locked up. We are holding no detainee who is under 14 years of age, and even very few 16-year-olds. We maintain no special facility for juveniles. No such thing exists.

[Gus] Thank you very much.

Goren on Decision To Reopen Schools in W. Bank

TA1405094488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 May 88

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Arye Gus; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gus] Mr Goren, next week we are going to resume school studies in Judaea and Samaria after a several-months-long strike because of the riots. Can we assume, therefore, that the defense establishment believes the situation is now quiet?

[Goren] I would not use such a clear-cut definition. We differentiate between two things: on the one hand, the identification of the inhabitants—their aspirations and desire to continue the intifadha [uprising] which has not been significantly affected; and, on the other hand, their preparedness to participate, especially in violent actions or clashes with the army, in which we certainly find a certain tiredness, or quite encouraging signs, but not beyond that.

[Gus] Is that enough to restore the functioning of governing bodies that were on strike during the riots?

[Goren] Certainly, we said this in the past, and we intend to try under certain conditions to restore normal life as much as possible, again, on the condition that there is quiet. This includes studies. We did not decide to restore all studies to their previous level, but we certainly want to try. It depends on certain conditions, especially quiet, so that these places will not become centers of disorder. If the conditions we set are met, then we intend after the holiday to try to resume studies in stages. If, however, we see that this attempt does not work and the schools again become foci of disturbances, we will not hesitate to close them again.

[Gus] The last time you tried to renew studies, you were unsuccessful.

[Goren] It was less successful in Judaea and Samaria, but in Gaza it did work. The fact is that in Gaza most of the educational institutions are open. We very much hope it will also be able to be implemented in Judaea and Samaria. It is an experiment. We will see to what extent it succeeds.

[Gus] How do you explain the decline in the level of violence in the territories in the past month?

[Goren] There is no drastic drop in violence. There are incidents from time to time. There are clashes, including Molotov cocktails, and sometimes even worse. The main reason for the decline is the series of measures taken by the defense establishment in the three directions we have stated previously: first, the army's massive presence;

second, the arrests; and third, the economic activity. These three things have brought relative calm, again I stress relative. I say this at least twice.

[Gus] The Military Government and the Civilian Administration have taken extreme measures in all three fields. The question is how long will you be able to continue mass arrests and economic pressures on the population?

[Goren] I do not know if it can be put in a time frame. The question is what is the alternative? We cannot continue to permit clashes of the type we witnessed up to several weeks ago. We did not take all the measures at our disposal. We are now taking fewer measures than we took several weeks ago. We very much hope that all these activities will bring the desired calm. This is our intention. I very much hope we will be able to implement it.

[Gus] The number of prisoners in Israeli jails is unprecedented.

[Goren] That is correct, but there were also unprecedented incidents. We had to adjust our means to the events in the field.

[Gur] The inhabitants declared that they are conducting a civil rebellion against the Civilian Administration and the Military Government. It seems that this is the situation. The town councils stopped functioning, policemen resigned, taxes are not being paid, and commerce is paralyzed.

[Goren] The inhabitants did not declare a civil rebellion. Had they, it would have taken place, which is not the case. What is civil rebellion? What did the leaflets and publications declare? The civil rebellion was aimed at cutting the links between the population and the Civilian Administration, the authorities. This did not happen. The fact is that all the systems are functioning. The municipal system was affected to some extent, but it is also functioning.

[Gur] But the symbol of the success of the Civilian Administration in returning Arab mayors to the Arab towns to replace the Israeli Army officers was harmed, I believe.

[Goren] This was certainly not a symbol, and I do not know where you got that impression. So far, we have not returned a single Jewish mayor, something we could have done. I very much hope we will not be forced to do so.

[Gur] But the image of a functioning Arab town council headed by an Arab mayor no longer exists because the mayors are in fact not functioning.

[Goren] What you are saying is simply incorrect. The civil rebellion is aimed at cutting the population off from the regime. What does this mean? Not to work, not to have contacts with the Civilian Administration, not to pay taxes, not to buy Israeli products, not to have any contacts at all with Israel—not a single one of these demands was heeded. As for the issue of taxes, a large part of the population has a real problem with the payment of taxes because their income has been hurt. Except for this sector, they are paying taxes. Damage to ties with Israel and work in Israel was only partial.

[Gur] You believe the call for civil disobedience and the attempt to implement it is really a struggle for an image in the international media or in the Israeli public more than the desire to implement it in practice?

[Goren] Things should be seen in a much wider context. The basic intention of the call for civil rebellion was to establish an alternative system to the existing authority, to set up a parallel system unconnected to the regime. So far, and I stress that this is the case so far, it has not happened.

[Gur] But they set up mutual help systems, such as in education, at least according to what they say. They are constantly talking about providing their own necessities.

[Goren] We must differentiate between what they declare and what is happening in the field. You recall the issue of education. The fact is that a parallel educational system was not set up. The fact is that they are coming to us begging for the resumption of studies. Why do they do it? Had they had an alternative educational system, they would not be demanding this. We hope we will be able to respond to their request. We do not want to harm the educational system. Our interest is to restore normal daily life as much as possible. This will take time. In general, we are hopeful that it will happen.

[Gur] The question is whether systems which still function are not in fact under the control of other elements, run by the population itself, popular committees for instance, and not by the Civilian Administration.

[Goren] I repeat: They are under pressure, threats, and attacks, but, again, alternative systems were not set up. To the extent we can, we will not permit this to happen.

[Gus] The defense minister said at the start of the uprising that he believes that in the end a local leadership will develop with which Israel will be able to negotiate. Have you discovered signs of such a leadership?

[Goren] At this stage I have not seen a leadership developing from the intifadha. I suppose there is, but at this stage we are not forming contacts with this element.

[Gur] Who are you holding contacts with these days?

[Goren] We are maintaining a dialogue with most circles in the population. This has not been harmed. We are not carrying out a dialogue with those leaders you mentioned before because we do not know who they are, if they exist at all. Some are in jail, and if there are those who have not been arrested yet we do not know who they are. Except for this group, which is very small, none of the sectors we were in a dialogue with up to now has been affected in any way. We are meeting all the sectors of the population without any exception. Even those considered extremists.

[Gus] What is the logic behind the burdens you impose on the inhabitants, for example, the exchange of the ID cards, the cut off of water supplies to villages, the suspension of gasoline supplies for certain periods, and what is called giving the local inhabitants the runaround with documents they have to fill out.

[Goren] You use the word "runaround." You will not hear me using that expression. You mentioned the water issue. We never turned off water supplies as a means of pressure. Where did you get that? There were cases in which residents did not pay their water and electricity bills, and the water companies and electric company cut off, or rather threatened to cut them off. In most cases people paid. This would be the case in Israel as well. As for the ID cards issue, the exchange of ID cards is a government act, which we are implementing. I very much hope we will be able to complete it. Up to now it has taken place with only very few disturbances.

[Gus] Why was there a need for the battle over the hours shops could remain open? Why were merchants forced to open? Now you are forcing them to close when you do not want the shops to remain open.

[Goren] Based to your question, one might think that we change our views each day and each hour and are doing different things in different places. We adjust our measures on the shops issue from time to time according to developments. We have no intention of causing suffering to the local population. We have no intention of giving them an unnecessary runaround.

[Gur] Punitive actions perhaps?

[Goren] Not these either. We want to get the population to understand that intifadha, disturbances, breaking the law, harm to the civilian setup, will not get them any positive results. It is true that the intifadha brought about a greater identification by large sectors of the population. Our problem now is to face a large number of inhabitants, much more than in the past, but we find there are clear signs of readiness on their part to stop a large number of the actions they took up several weeks ago.

[Gur] Thank you.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Gaza Closed Military Zone

TA1405043788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 14 May 88

[Excerpt] All curfews in the Gaza Strip were lifted yesterday but the area remains a closed military zone. No one is being allowed to leave. [passage omitted]

IDF Soldier Wounded in Gaza

TA1305152388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] It has been reported from the Gaza Strip that no curfews are now in force. The curfews imposed this morning on the Al-Shati refugee camp and Gaza's Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood were lifted after worshippers dispersed quietly at the end of Friday prayers.

An IDF soldier sustained a head wound when he was hit by a stone this afternoon in the Jabalyah refugee camp. He was evacuated to Barzilay Medical Center in Ashqelon where he was diagnosed as having suffered a concussion.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip will be lifted at 0300.

Commercial Strike in Gaza

TA1505094188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] There is a complete commercial strike in the Gaza Strip today. Only a few workers left for Israel this morning in view of attempts to disrupt the laborers' exit. Many of the workers preferred to leave the Gaza Strip last night in order to avoid a confrontation with the instigators.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that little traffic of residents and vehicles is noticeable in Gaza's streets. There were attempts to disrupt order in several places, but they were nipped in the bud upon the arrival of the security forces. The process of replacing the old identity cards was stopped and will resume after 'Id al-Fitr.

Roundup of 15 May Incidents

TA1505111488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 May 88

[Excerpts] There is a general strike in Judaea and Samaria today, marking the 40th anniversary of Palestinian defeat and the foundation of the State of Israel. No disturbances have been reported. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus reports:

[Begin recording] There is a general strike in Ramallah today, yet another in a large number of strikes. The streets are empty, except for children who play in several places. Public transportation is strike-bound, but I have not found new slogans on walls of houses. Why is everyone striking today? The nationalistic circles in the territories called for a strike and a day of mourning, marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Israel, a day they name the day of damnable defeat. The annexation of Jerusalem too has not been forgotten. [passage omitted]

Despite the call for a strike and demonstrations, no special incidents have been reported in Judaea and Samaria up to noon today. The curfew is continuing on the village of 'Anabta in Samaria, after an Israeli car was set on fire last night. The army rounded up the men in this village and is searching it.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 15 May adds that "Arab sources said all males ages 14 to 45 from 'Anabta were ordered to gather in the center of the village and eight people were arrested. A similar roundup took place yesterday in the village of Zayta near Tulkarm. Arab sources said 14 people were arrested."].

The curfew is continuing also in Nabulus and its environs, as well as the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem. [end recording]

Relative quiet has been maintained in the Gaza Strip. There have been no exceptional incidents since the morning. The area residents are staging a complete commercial strike, and little traffic of residents and vehicles is seen in the streets. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from Gaza:

[Begin recording] The residents of the Gaza Strip are staging a complete strike to mark the day of disaster as today is noted in the leaflets. Yet, despite the inflammatory leaflets which called on the inhabitants to stage riots, relative quiet has been maintained today, with no exceptional incidents. As is the rule here in the Gaza Strip, leaflet No 16 has been supplemented with special leaflets by the Islamic resistance movement, but these too did not drive the population into the streets. As said, compliance with the leaflets here is reflected by a general strike. [passage omitted]

No stones were thrown at us during our tour of the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza. The Civilian Administration is today considering the possibility of releasing several dozen detainees on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. This would be a goodwill gesture toward families which did not take part in disturbances and live in quiet areas. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1030 GMT on 15 May reports that "Quiet prevails in East Jerusalem today. Shops are completely strike-bound, for the 3d consecutive day. Early this morning Kakh activists tried to climb the Temple Mount but were prevented by policemen. A group of Temple Mount Faithful members later surrounded the Temple Mount."].

Curfew Imposed on Al-Nusayrat

TA1605065388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] The curfew imposed 2 days ago [as heard] on the Al-Shati' refugee camp was this morning extended to the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. This was done as a preventive measure, resulting from attempted riots in the two camps.

Due to the 'Id al-Fitr holiday, no workers left for jobs this morning and few vehicles were seen on the roads. Our correspondent in the south, 'Ezra Yanuv, notes that no noteworthy incidents were reported this morning.

1 Killed, 2 Wounded in Gaza

TA1605084988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Grave disturbances have occurred in the Gaza Strip this morning. A 17-year-old youth was killed in the Jabalyah refugee camp, and two other youths were wounded. All three casualties were moved to Al-Ahali hospital in Gaza.

The disturbances in the Jabalyah refugee camp and in Bayt Hanun erupted after a curfew was imposed on these places. Our correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv reports that the Al-Shati' and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps remain under curfew, while the Al-Burayj, Al-Mughazi, and Rafah refugee camps are under blockade. The information regarding the Gaza Strip disturbances was reported by Eytan Rabin on our red line.

6 Wounded by IDF Fire

TA1605095588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] Six Arabs were wounded today in disturbances in Judaea and Samaria. Three residents of the village of 'Idnah were wounded during a riot after an IDF force was attacked with firebombs and stones. The force fired several shots to extricate themselves, wounding the three. Three more residents were wounded by IDF fire in Qalqilyah.

An attempt to block the road was made in Al-Birah, but an IDF force, which arrived on the scene, cleared the main thoroughfare. [passage omitted]

1 Dead, 5 Wounded in Riots

TA1605110288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] One man was killed and five others were wounded in today's riots in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus is now on the line from Nabulus:

Ramadan has just ended and 'Id al-Fitr has begun and an awakening can be felt in Judaea and Samaria. In a series of incidents this morning, one man was killed and five wounded. Three youths were wounded by IDF fire in the Hebron district village of Idnah after an IDF patrol was pelted with stones and firebombs.

West Bank residents have responded to the nationalistic circles' call to mark the first day of 'Id al-Fitr as a day of mourning for the uprising's dead. A group of women staged a demonstration in Al-Birah and was dispersed with tear gas. A curfew was imposed on Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem following the stoning of Israeli cars, during which an Israeli passenger was injured by glass shards. Two residents of Qalqilyah were wounded by IDF fire.

While reporting the above, I was notified that the body of a resident of the Hebron District village of 'Azmut was brought to the Hebron hospital. Disturbances, which included burned tires and blocked roads, took place in that village today. The dead man's body was transferred to the Institute for Forensic Medicine for a post mortem and the IDF is now investigating the circumstances of his death.

Soldier Sentenced in Salim Bulldozer Affair

TA1505134488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Master Sergeant Charlie Danino has been sentenced to 4 months imprisonment with a 6-month suspended sentence. He will be demoted to private. Danino was convicted of assault and improper behavior in the Salim bulldozer affair. The military court judges said that being the highest ranking soldier involved, Danino could not possibly receive a lighter sentence than his accomplices.

Our legal affairs correspondent Yasmin Qeyni reports that Danino immediately announced that he would appeal his sentence.

Students Participate in Beating Arab Detainees

TA1505163188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Israeli high school students participated in beating Arab detainees in a lockup near Ramallah as part of their Gadna [youth brigade] paramilitary training. MAPAM Knesset Member [MK] Ya'ir Tzaban said the incident involved a Gadna unit sent to serve on a military base which housed a temporary lockup. Soldiers asked the youths to join in beating the detainees. Several youths accepted and later told their friends about their experience.

The IDF spokesman said the incident began when a sergeant invited the students to see what was happening at the detention center. When IDF authorities found out about the beatings, Gadna activity in the area was suspended and the sergeant was put on trial. The IDF spokesman did not respond to charges that the students participated in the affair. MK Tzaban, therefore, called on the defense and education ministers to check into the matter.

2 Hizballahi Sent to Prison

TA1605103488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] A military court in Lod has sentenced two Lebanese members of the Hizballah organization to 13 years in prison. They were captured by South Lebanese Army [SLA] forces after an attack a year ago on a SLA unit in south Lebanon and handed over to the Israeli Army. The two, Qasim Kamal and Isma'il 'Ali Zayn, both 19 years old, are from the south Lebanese village Qabrikhah.

King Husayn Returns From Saudi Arabia 13 May

JN1305115688 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] His majesty the king returned home early this morning at the end of a brief visit to Saudi Arabia during which his majesty performed the lesser pilgrimage, Al-'Umrah, in Mecca. His majesty and the accompanying delegation also visited Al-Madinah and performed dawn prayers at the prophet's mosque.

His majesty the king and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia held a closed-door meeting last night.

The Jordanian delegation headed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held talks with Saudi officials led by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal. The talks dealt with Arab developments and bilateral relations.

King Fahd gave an iftar banquet in honor of his majesty the king yesterday evening.

Upon return to Amman, his majesty the king was received by his royal highness the crown prince, the court minister, the Armed Forces commander in chief, and highranking officials.

Reportage on Visit by Iraq's Saddam Husayn

Arrives in Amman 14 May

JN1405173488 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn headed those who received his brother His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn upon his arrival in Amman today on a visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn.

The talks will deal with recent developments in the Arab world, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Also present to receive him at the plane ramp were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and the Iraqi ambassador in Jordan.

His excellency was accorded an official reception. The Iraqi and Jordanian national anthems were played. His excellency and his brother His Majesty King Husayn then reviewed the honor guard which represented symbolic forces from various formations of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is accompanied by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

His excellency then shook hands with the deputy prime minister, the ministers, senior government and military officials, and the Iraqi Embassy staff.

The official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn were held today.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Tariq 'Aziz, and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan.

Holds Talks, Departs

JN1505054488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn held a round of talks at Al-Nadwah Palace last night.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn briefed His Majesty King Husayn on developments on the Iraqi warfront, the steadfast stand displayed by Iraq—Army and people—in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression, and also on the great accomplishment and the certain victory represented by the liberation of the Al-Faw peninsula from the Iranian enemy.

His majesty the king voiced his appreciation and admiration of the Arabs' ability to liberate Arab territories, despite all the difficulties and obstacles along the way—which give the Arab nation the hope of restoring Arab rights on every inch of Arab territory.

During the meeting, talks dealt in detail with the latest developments in the Arab arena and the coordination of stands regarding joint Arab action, including preparations for the upcoming Arab summit due to be held in Algiers. The two sides also discussed the distinguished fraternal relations binding the two states and bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

The talks, which were interrupted by an iftar banquet hosted by his majesty the king in honor of the great guest, were attended on the Jordanian side by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

For Iraq, the talks were attended by the first deputy prime minister, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the delegation accompanying him left Amman last night.

His Majesty King Husayn led those who saw him off. Also present were the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, senior officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

King Husayn, Others Receive U.S. Envoy to UN

JN1405180588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received the U.S. envoy to the United Nations at the Royal Hashemite Court today. During the meeting, his majesty stressed Jordan's basic principles on peace efforts and the six principles his majesty had announced to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Earlier, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the foreign minister received the U.S. envoy to the United Nations.

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

More Than 250 Killed

NC1505070988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] The Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council has issued a statement saying that more than 250 persons have been killed and 500 others wounded in the battles which have flared up in the southern suburb since 6 May.

The statement, which was signed by the Council's Deputy Chairman Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, adds that since the clashes began more than 60 percent of the suburb's inhabitants have left the areas where the battles have been taking place.

Hizballah Reported Divided

NC1505071888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Political sources in West Beirut have said that Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister and head of the Iranian mediation team in Beirut, went to Damascus to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The same sources added that Sheykh ol-Eslam was angry with Hizballah's rejection of his call for peace and hence went to Damascus to get what was termed effective assistance. The sources gave no other details, but did add that the deployment of the Syrian forces must be carried out with Iran's agreement if the Syrian intervention is to be peaceful.

Meanwhile, a source in the four-member committee said that Sheykh ol-Eslam is still in the southern suburb and had not gone to Damascus.

Sources are reporting divisions within the Hizballah leadership. They say that there is a wing led by Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Shaykh Muhammad al-Miqdad, 'Abbas al-Musawi, and Talal Hamiyah which rejects a Syrian entry. Opposing this is a conciliatory wing led by Ibrahim al-Amin, Hasan Nasrallah, and 'Abdallah Hamadah which proposes handing over the issue of the hostages to the Syrians.

The Zu'aytar and Al-Miqdad clans asked their fighters last night to withdraw from the streets of the suburb in order to pave the way for the entry of Syrian forces.

Suburb Entry Points Closed

NC1505114888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1137 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] As part of the military measures taken to prepare for their entry into the southern suburb, the Syrian forces closed the entry points to the southern suburb at noon today. These forces are allowing citizens to leave, but are preventing anyone from entering the area.

Syria To Enter Suburb

NC1505135788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1305 GMT 15 May 88

[Statement to the press by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, in Beirut on 15 May—read by announcer]

[Text] O kinfolk in the southern suburb: The suburb and its inhabitants have been subjected to various types of attacks for more than 10 days. These attacks take the form of frenzied fighting between the gunmen in this area. Several people have fallen victim to the bullets and shells of these gunmen, which have devastated people and property.

From the time this internecine fighting first erupted, Syria has used all of the means at its disposal with the warring parties in an attempt to stop the bloodbath. However, all attempts have failed as a result of the insistence of those gunmen to continue their bloody struggle at the expense of the lives, dignity, and daily life of the people. The last of these initiatives had called for an immediate halt to the fighting, the withdrawal of all gunmen from streets and areas, and the return to the situation which prevailed before the fighting erupted. This initiative also called for drawing up a plan to end the tragedy. But, unfortunately, the gunmen did not abide by these decisions, and the shelling continued against innocent people.

Consequently, Syria has no alternative but to make the decision to rescue our people from the bloodbath and death. Instructions have been given to the Syrian Arab forces to enter the southern suburb of Beirut, impose security on it, prevent any show of force, and end the oppression and fear being imposed by the gunmen on some of the sons of our people, who have abundantly given to our national and pan-Arab issues, and have even sacrified their lives. Therefore, we ask all gunmen in the southern suburb to lay down their arms without delay, because our forces will open fire on any gunmen in the streets or buildings. We warn all gunmen, without exception, against opening fire, because we will confront them with the appropriate means.

Our forces will impose security in the southern suburb. The gunmen's commitment to the decision to lay down their arms and to withdraw from their positions and from the streets will spare their blood because our forces will deal with those who contravene these orders in the appropriate manner. They have encroached on the people's security and interests, and on the security of our forces, who are carrying out their pan-Arab duty toward our kinfolk in Lebanon, who are suffering from injustice, oppression, and wars that are designed to harm their security and the safety of their sons.

Following his statement, Brigadier General Kan'an was asked when the deployment in the southern suburb was to begin, and replied: This decision will be made at the appropriate time.

Informed that Hizballah has claimed that it has not been notified of a Syrian decision to enter the southern suburb, he responded: We have informed everyone of this decision.

Asked whether the Internal Security Forces will participate, he said: There is no problem with regard to the Internal Security Forces. They are concerned with internal security, but only after security has been established.

Brig Gen Kan'an was asked whether weapons in the suburb would be collected since his statement included the phrase laying down arms. He answered: The objective is to establish security in the suburb.

On whether the Syrian forces will be deployed as far as the contact lines, he replied: We hope that there will be no contact lines in Lebanon in the future.

Birri To Dissolve Militia

NC1505162688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] According to security sources in Al-Biqa', the Syrian occupation forces have been put on maximum alert and have reinforced their roadblocks. The same sources add that these forces have confiscated the personal weapons and examined the identity cards of various individuals, including Hizballah official 'Abbas al-Musavi and Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi.

Meanwhile, foreign correspondents have cited sources close to the Amal Movement as having said that Minister Nabih Birri will make a decision to dissolve the movement's militia in the southern suburb after the Syrian forces deploy there, because the Syrian military presence will cancel the need for this militia to maintain a presence there.

Artillery Kills 3 in W. Beirut

NC1505171788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] An artillery shell fell near a Syrian occupation forces roadblock in the Al-Hamra' area of West Beirut this afternoon, killing a Palestinian woman, her baby, and an unidentified man, and wounding four others.

The media in West Beirut have not yet reported this incident, which is the first since the Syrians entered West Beirut in February 1987.

Syrian Special Units Arriving

NC1505211088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] According to exclusive information given to Radio Free Lebanon by security sources in the northern area, the Syrian occupation forces have withdrawn their special units stationed around the city of Tripoli in the north and sent them in the direction of Beirut preparatory to entering the southern suburb. These units have been replaced by others that have arrived from Damascus.

It is worth noting that the members of the special units that have been brought to the suburb were responsible for the massacres that took place in Bab al-Tabbanah in Tripoli.

'Fighters' May Resist Syrians

NC1505230488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] AFP has cited fighters in the southern suburb as having said that now that they have taken control of the suburb, they are prepared to confront the Syrians to the death if a religious ruling requests them to do so.

AFP quoted the fighters as wondering about the real intentions of Damascus and as pointing out that they will not forget the murder of over 20 Hizballah members in Al-Basta by the Syrians 1 year ago.

AFP says that the few residents who remain in the suburb following the major exodus regard the Syrian entry as a blessing that could end the nightmare.

AFP also has cited an informed source in Beirut as having said that contacts have taken place between Damascus and Tehran to resolve the problem of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, who are supposedly held in the suburb. According to the source, the timing of the Syrian deployment has not been announced because of the need to continue the contacts between Syria and Iran on the hostage issue.

Syrian Reinforcements Continue

NC1605044988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] So far there are no reports as to whether the Syrian forces have entered the southern suburb. Syrian reinforcements took up positions at dawn today at the main entrances to the suburb. According to eyewitnesses, tanks, armored vehicles, and infantry arrived to reinforce the Syrian positions around the suburb at midnight. Residents of the Al-Ghubayrah area saw these reinforcements station themselves at the northern edges of the suburb.

Postponed Entry Requested

NC1605062488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] A ministerial source said last night that the Syrian command had received a request from Hizballah and the Iranians to postpone entry into the southern suburb and to revive the quadripartite committee and joint security committees to discuss anew certain matters and arrangements. The source, however, stressed that it is the desire of the Syrians to implement the decision that has been made, once preparations are completed.

'Fierce Clashes' Continue

NC1605063888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] The situation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah exploded at around 0700 today in the Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah areas. Fierce clashes involving tank artillery and mortar fire are now raging between the two sides. In the meantime, the decision by Damascus to expand the area it is occupying to include the southern suburb has not yet been implemented, 17 hours after its announcement. [passage omitted]

Amal Dismisses Several Leaders

NC1605065888 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Sources in the Amal Movement's organizational bureau, which is in continuous session, have announced that several spiritual and military leaders of the movement have been relieved of their duties in the wake of recent incidents in the southern suburb. According to the sources, this measure involves central and (?Nasirist) leaders, including Beirut military officials.

The sources add that a decision has been made to dissolve the Amal Movement [as heard] and to not retain a movement military (?presence) outside the south, where [words indistinct] the fight against Israel.

Inter-Palestinian Clashes Kill 8, Wound 100

NC1505070888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Eight persons were killed and 100 injured, the majority of them civilians, during the clashes between the Palestinian groups in the Beirut camps, according to final reports received from independent Palestinian sources.

Security sources said the clashes started on Friday night and ended yesterday afternoon when a cease-fire was reached. The sources added that the dissident artillery positions on the mountain had shelled the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

Independent Palestinian sources said that the dissidents abandoned seven out of their eight positions in the camp and were surrounded in their last position, which lies near one of the camp's entry points. The same sources added that the cease-fire, which was negotiated at the Lebanese Communist Party Headquarters, allows for the evacuation of the wounded and the deployment of a disengagement force consisting of 50 fighters from the groups that did not take part in the battles.

In Damascus, the dissidents have denied that they shelled the camp from the Al-Shuf area. They also denied losing their positions in Burj al-Barajinah and stressed that they had repulsed the pro-Fatah forces in the western part of the camp.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

JN1505113788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Beirut, 15 May (WAKH)—The clashes between the Fatah Movement and the dissident group of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] in the Burj al-Barajinah camp in the southern suburbs have ended after a cease-fire agreement scheduled to be observed as of yesterday afternoon was reached by the Palestinian factions.

Press sources said today that the agreement contains several points, including: a total cease-fire, withdrawal of heavy weapons from the streets, evacuation of the dead and wounded, a return to the way it was before the clashes erupted, and meetings to be held today to implement the remaining items included in the agreement.

The Fatah Movement had seized control over most of the positions and posts manned by the dissidents in the Burj al-Barajinah camp following the fighting which took place yesterday and the day before yesterday.

The Fatah Movement had also seized large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and radio equipment. Only one post, close to the posts manned by the Amal Movement near the camp, remained unoccupied.

A Palestinian source told the WAKH correspondent in Beirut that approximately 170 dissidents rejoined the Fatah ranks and added that more than 30 others, including Abu Tha'ir [not further identified], the dissidents' military official, surrendered.

The source added that 1 Fatah individual was killed and 3 others wounded, while dissident losses amounted to 10 killed and more than 40 others wounded. The source indicated that Fatah is providing medical treatment to the wounded dissidents and evacuating them to hospitals.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Patrol; 50 Casualties

NC1505121588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] A national resistance group attacked with machineguns and rockets an agent Lahd militia patrol on the Al-Qantarah-Al-Tayyibah road last night, destroying an army personnel carrier and inflicting about 50 casualties. Consequently the Israeli enemy and agent forces raked the area of the operation, while the group returned safely to its base.

Agent Lahd's radio admitted the operation this morning, but it did not mention any casualties.

Israeli Helicopters Attack Palestinian Bases

NC1505210188 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, May 15 (AFP)—Israeli helicopters late Sunday attacked Palestinian targets east of here, correspondents reported.

Two helicopters fired four rockets on Palestinian bases in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp and in the Jabal al-Halib region east of this Lebanese port city, located 43 kilometers (27 miles) south of Beirut, Palestinian sources said.

They were unable to say if the attack had caused any casualties.

The Sidon area is home to some 100,000 Palestinians.

Aimed at 2 Fatah Positions

NC1505233288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2315 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Israel has confirmed that its planes raided south Sidon last night, wounding three Palestinians. An Israeli spokesman has stated that the target was an old building used by terrorists. The target was destroyed before the planes returned safely to base. The spokesman declined to provide clarification about the organization which was the target of the operation.

Security sources [words indistinct] have disclosed that the Israeli raid was aimed at two Fatah positions. They added that the Israeli planes dropped flares and that columns of smoke billowed from the two positions that were attacked. The sources said that ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene of the attack to remove the casualties and to extinguish the fire. The sources noted that the Israeli planes flew over the area for 15 minutes.

Hostages Said Moved to Hizballah Official's Home

NC1405102988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] REUTER news agency today cites AL-SHIRA' magazine as saying that the battles in the southern suburb have compelled the kidnappers of foreign hostages to move them to the house of Muhammad al-Amin, a Hizballah official. AL-SHIRA' added that the hostages have been moved there in a Hizballah military vehicle.

Moved to Iranian Embassy

NC1405142688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1420 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that Hizballah moved its hostages from Beirut's southern suburb to the Iranian Embassy building. The hostages are being kept in the lower stories of the building.

'Sources' Say Syria, Iran Discuss Fate of Hostages

NC1505201588 Paris AFP in English 2008 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 15 (AFP)—Syria and Iran have been in contact on the fate of foreign hostages believed held in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs, well informed sources said.

The reported contacts came as Syrian troops were preparing to move into the suburbs to put an end to 10 days of fighting between pro-Syrian Amal fighters and those from Hizballah, backed by Iran.

The exact time for the Syrian deployment has not been disclosed, the sources said, in order to allow time for Syrian and Iranian officials to confer, notably on the question of the hostages reportedly held in the area.

The talks also focused on the future of Hizballah in the southern suburbs, whose forces have seized control of most of the area from Amal, sources added.

Ten Americans, two Britons, a West German, an Irishman and an Italian are currently being held in Lebanon by groups whose rhetoric is similar to that of Hizballah.

Al-Asad Addresses Ramadan Banquet 12 May

JN1305165488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has made a speech at the Iftar banquet he hosted in honor of Islamic men of religion on Thursday [12 May], during which he spoke about the values in which we should believe and which we should defend. He also spoke about the national and pan-Arab duties we should assume to confront the Zionist dangers against the Arab land.

The president began his speech, in which he replied to statements made by religious scholars who spoke at the Iftar banquet, by saying that the month of Ramadan is the month of virtues and miracles, foremost being the miracle of the holy Koran, God's great book, to which we should adhere.

The president said we should adhere to God's book and the Prophet's tradition and that if we do so then we will never miss the road or the objective.

After thanking those who spoke for their noble affections, the president stressed that he shares them their affection and love just as it was in past years and just as it will continue to be in coming years. The president said:

I stress our values, particularly martyrdom, because they are the crux of Islam and a sincere human life. We should adhere to these values in the face of injustice, colonialism, and exploitation. Great Islam triumphed by many swords. Martyrdom was ahead of these swords and the most effective. Our belief in martyrdom and the actual practice and embodiment of martyrdom is one of the most important pillars of Islam. Martyrdom contributed to reinforcing the glory and victory of Islam.

The president added: We must concentrate on martyrdom among other issues, especially when we go through difficult circumstances that make the enemy believe we are in a weak position. Thus, the enemy seeks to instill in us that we are in a weak position because it wants to destroy our will, strength, and morale. Every time the enemy insists on this course, we must insist on our course, the road of martyrdom based on our belief in the homeland and the people's heritage. When we say heritage, then we mean we do not have a heritage that is brighter than Islam.

The president said: Force in today's world, just as in the past, is what determines rights. Everyone speaks about rights and international norms, charters, and resolutions. However, you find that every international event is eventually settled by force. Everyone speaks about world public opinion, taking into consideration that I do not belittle it. However, we must not give it more than it deserves. Everyone speaks about international norms and laws. We support these norms and laws. However, we must not give them more than they deserve. I call for this to avoid disrupting our calculations and to prevent the complication of our assessment of matters and the balance of power.

The president gave an example of this, namely, Israel's injustice against Lebanon. He said: Israel, which is considered by the West in general as a democratic nation in this region, which shares with it values such as freedom and human rights—this Israel has continued to attack civilians in Lebanon with the most sophisticated weapons and huge bombs for several months without having its hand stopped and without having someone in the world move to punish it. It is true that there were some people here and there who protested against and condemned the aggressors. However, their protests did not affect events.

The president spoke about the objectives Israel sought to achieve when it invaded Lebanon. He said Israel thought it had achieved what it wanted and arranged the situation in Lebanon in accordance with its imagination to turn Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate.

In light of this, the president added, the world believed that the situation was settled in favor of Israel in Lebanon. Many sides in the Arab world believed the same thing. Also some brothers in Lebanon thought matters had been directed in this course, although Israel's action was a violation of international laws, charters, and concepts, UN resolutions, human rights, and all ideas about which they talk in the West, particularly in the United States.

Israel has defied all these considerations, laws, and concepts. The West remained silent because Israel is the spoiled son and natural ally of the Western forces in general.

The president wondered: Who, then, prevented these Israeli schemes from continuation and success? He answered: The people who sacrificed their souls and blood: our brothers in Lebanon who confronted the Israeli occupation. The real material base for the resistance and the people sacrificing most were our people in Syria. Without this, the honest strugglers in Lebanon, of all nationalist or Islamic trends or names, could not have achieved victory.

Our Syrian Arab people have sacrificed their blood defending Lebanon and its people. The sacrifices of this people are not at all minor. The sacrifices of our country in resisting the enemy were great. The sacrifices of Syrian fighters were great. We take pride in this. We fight for our brothers and territories. In Lebanon, we defend Lebanon and Syria. This is our homeland. For the sake of people and homeland, every sacrifice becomes simple. After blood, every sacrifice becomes simple.

Economic and material sacrifices are continuing. Sometimes we make the sacrifice in circumstances that we do not want, for example, what happened in Beirut. We cannot abandon our duty in such circumstances. If we do, we will contribute to creating factors that help Israel achieve its goals.

The president talked about the present and the future saying: I am optimistic about the future. My optimism is much greater than the pessimism implied by the general appearance of the Arab and Muslim situation for the time being. The image of the Arabs, as seen, is one of a dispersed, divided, and disintegrated nation with no common policy, principles, values, or Islam. Islam is not mere words. It is a religion of life, action, and practice. When Islam rejects colonization, injustice, subordination, and humiliation, it calls upon us to fight against this injustice and humiliation. When Islam rejects something, it calls upon us to struggle against it so we embody Islam's rejection and its choice.

He said: It is regrettable that, in our Arab reality, we embody neither in the least nor in the most what Islam orders us to do or what national living concepts order us to do. For example, the ambitions of racist Zionism are as clear as the sun. They do not need genius or extraordinary cleverness or hard thinking to discover. This is clear in the Zionist books and precepts. They do not want Palestine alone or a peace of land here or there. They do not want only another Arab country. They want the land from the Nile to the Euphrates. I have previously referred to this. It is a highly dangerous matter. We must not tire of stating and recalling it a hundred times a day because it is pertinent to our destiny. It is repeated several times in their precepts. They want Israel's state from the Nile to the Euphrates to impose their hegemony beyond that until it covers the entire world.

The president talked about the Zionists' persistence in feeding the idea of Israel's Torah state and on dedicating the resources of many countries to achieving their aim. He warned against sluggishness in dealing with the Zionist expansionist ambitions and against underestimating the danger that the Zionist entity in Palestine constitutes.

He said: The Zionists have managed to achieve the most dangerous step— namely, establishing the material base in the middle of the target land, the land that extends from the Nile to the Euphrates. From this base they can advance east and west. It is easier to advance from this base than from any other continent.

Today, they are in the middle of the land whose possession they claim and which they aim to occupy. They possess the necessary weapons and equipment for aggression. How can we remain complacent or forget this looming danger, which is only a few kilometers away? Each one of us must remember this danger and imagine what would happen if we neglect it.

We do not fabricate, but are speaking about a looming danger that is overwhelming us as well as our future generations. The aims of this enemy are as clear as the sun. Yet, some have not seen them, some do not want to see them. Some people are disturbed when they are discussed. There are also some who do not want anyone to talk about them. If someone insists on talking about them, he will be viewed with suspicion and his words will be misinterpreted in various ways. We can never agree with others that we should live our moment as best we can, not as officials but as citizens. We must refuse the happiness of the moment if it is at the expense of the happiness of our entire future and destiny.

The president asserted that Syria will contine to shoulder its pan-Arab responsibilities regardless of the cost and sacrifices, because this country has no alternative to adhering to our rights, territory, and dignity. We are lucky because the national and political awareness in this country is satisfactory. Syria has been known for this for a long time. Syria is now the center of gravity. If Syria cannot prevent the Zionist expansion, no other Arab state can because we are in a state of direct confrontation and because we are the most populated confrontation state. In the past, we cooperated with Egypt.

Regrettably, Egypt now stands in the enemy trench. Perhaps you have read the memorandum of understanding between Egypt and the United States—an agreement which makes the land of Egypt open to U.S. control and forces. The Americans say that they will supply Egypt with weapons, but within the framework of the strategic balance in the region. This strategic balance of which they are talking is not the same as the one we are talking about. We are talking about the strategic balance with the enemy and they speak about the current strategic balance, that is, the fait accompli, or Israel's predominance.

We are looking forward to the fateful battle with the Zionist enemy, which is threatening our present and future existence and generations. Some Arabs are looking forward to joining the EEC and some of them invent trouble for themselves and for us, as the Iraqi regime is doing. If Syria does not stand firm and prevent the Zionist expansion, nobody will be able to prevent this expansion. And regardless of the immensity of our sacrifices, there is no alternative to our methods; we have no other option. We are defending our fate, nationalism, nation, and religion.

Referring to the tasks and difficulties which Syria's pan-Arab and defensive responsibilities necessitate, the president said: Syria's resources are good; its land is productive. Syria is capable of bypassing difficulties. The president added: I am optimistic about the future. In this I rely on genuine, material considerations. Our country's resources permit us to progress and our dignity and future deserve much sacrifices.

The president said: The absolute spirit of martyrdom makes it difficult for the enemy to conquer our people and country. And despite all the circumstances through which we are passing, we are progressing on the road to building our Armed Forces and are continuing progress on the road to economic development.

Concluding his speech, the president said: The road to martyrdom is the road to glory, the road to the Arab nation's victory. Steadfastness will make us triumphant.

President Receives Algerian Foreign Minister

JN1205131988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi at 1315 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

Talks revolved around the extraordinary Arab summit conference to be held in Algeria. Discussion also dealt with the situation in the region and the development of the popular uprising against the Israeli occupation in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on U.S. Plans, 'Deception'

JN1205101988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with Shultz' tour and the new U.S. game. It says: With the assertion by U.S. circles that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz intends to make a new tour of the region to follow up his initiative, it seems the U.S. Administration has begun to pave the way for a new round of deception in a constant attempt to market U.S. ideas.

These ideas faced a firm pan-Arab Syrian stand which adheres to the requirements of achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. Such a peace should be based on full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights through an international conference for peace with full efficiency and powers.

This conference should be attended by the five permanent UN Security Council member states, whereas Arabs will participate through a joint delegation, including the PLO.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Perhaps Washington does not ignore the Arabs' rejection of such a losing wager. The U.S. game has been exposed. However, if the United States is interested in a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, then it will not lack the means to pressure the strategic ally to which it provides all types of assistance, including wheat and tanks.

The United States also supports Israel's terrorist course and savage practices against defenseless Arab citizens in the occupied homeland. Moreover, it secures political cover at the Security Council to prevent the issuance of any resolution that condemns the continued Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Washington cannot convince the world that it is unable to pressure Shamir himself to make him yield to the international will which has crystallized in support of an international conference with full powers.

It will be useless for Washington to play the tune of inter-Israeli differences because they do not exist. Even if such differences do exist, they are over the question of who will do more for Israel.

Afghanistan

Joint Statement Issued on Soviet Troop Withdrawal

LD1505132688 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 0600 GMT 15 May 88

["Joint Soviet-Afghan Statement"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, 15 May (BAKHTAR)—On 25 Sawr 1366 [15 May 1988], the day when the Geneva agreements on a political settlement to the external aspects of the Afghan problem enter into force, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan deem it necessary to state the following.

The agreements signed in Geneva were greeted with satisfaction and hope by the Soviet and Afghan peoples and throughout the world. Each side that signed the agreements must do everything to ensure that the goals are achieved for whose sake work on the provisions of the Geneva documents was carried out for 6 long years.

The pivotal question in the settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan remains the cessation of external interference in Afghans' internal affairs. The pledges contained in the agreements relating to this are completely specific and unequivocal: Interference must be ended and the very material base that is now used for interference must be eliminated. It is necessary to keep a constant eye on how these important provisions of the agreement relating to the principles of relations and especially to noninterference and the renunciation of intervention. These agreements between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan must be fulfilled.

In accordance with the Geneva documents, the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is beginning today. As laid down in the agreement on interrelationships for the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan, the troop withdrawal will be carried out over 9 months, and half the contingent will be withdrawn in the 1st 3 months, by 24 Asad 1366 [15 August 1988].

Soviet troops entered Afghanistan at the request of the latter's legitimate government with honest and noble aims. The Soviet Union has always unconditionally respected and continues to respect its southern neighbor's sovereignty, and this respect forms the foundation of the relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation that have existed for several decades between the two countries. For its part Afghanistan has always viewed the Soviet Union as a country guided by the principles of good-neighborliness that has repeatedly come to the assistance of the Afghan people during difficult times

Now that the Soviet troops are returning home, the total absurdity of the claims of "Moscow's expansionist aims" and its desire to use Afghanistan as an outlet to "warm seas" is again obvious. If the Geneva agreements had been concluded earlier, as the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in fact wanted, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan would have begun earlier too.

Today, on the day when the Soviet troop withdrawal begins, the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan deem it necessary to stress the importance and significance of the traditional historic friendship between the two countries, which has become particularly firm and tempered during years that have been hard for Afghanistan. This friendship has been sealed by the blood of Afghan patriots and Soviet internationalist servicemen jointly shed in the name of the country's bright future.

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan are firmly convinced that the signing and enforcement of the Geneva agreements can and must facilitate the settlement of the internal aspects of the Afghan problem also. The policy of national reconciliation being pursued in Afghanistan has already created the necessary preconditions for the development of these events. In today's Afghanistan all strata of Afghan society and all nationalities have equal political, economic, and social rights, and equal opportunities to work for the good of the country and to take part in its political life on a multiparty basis have been opened up for all Afghans.

The Islamic religion, its traditions, and its customs enjoy profound respect and recognition from the state. Coalition organs of power are being created throughout the country. The Afghan leadership states that it is prepared to continue to promote, in every possible way, this process and the formation in Kabul of a coalition government on the broadest possible basis.

On this day when the Geneva agreements enter into force, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan reiterates its appeal to all opposition forces to cease fire, to cease the fratricidal war and bloodshed, to sit down at the negotiating table, and to build a peaceful and prosperous state together. It expresses the confidence that Afghan refugees will also join actively in the process of this building. All the necessary conditions are being created for their return to their homeland as citizens enjoying full rights.

The Soviet side believes that this policy provides an opportunity to solve the Afghan problem among the Afghans themselves.

Proceeding from the provisions of the joint Soviet-Afghan statement adopted on the results of the 18 Hamal 1366 [7 April 1988] meeting in Tashkent between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan reaffirm their readiness to strengthen and develop in every possible way large-scale Soviet-Afghan cooperation in all spheres.

The Soviet side will further develop economic cooperation with Afghanistan, expand trade, and promote the development of direct ties between Soviet republics, oblasts, and cities and Afghan provinces and cities. The Soviet side confirms its intention to continue to assist Afghanistan in organizing the lives of Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan and Iran.

The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan appeal to all states to promote the restoration of the war-ravaged Afghan economy and the economic and social development of the Republic of Afghanistan both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of multilateral aid programs, including under UN auspices. The Soviet Union is prepared to take due part in international programs.

The Soviet and Afghan sides highly assess the work carried out to create a UN apparatus to verify compliance with the implementation of the Geneva agreements and express the hope that the activity of UN observers will make an effective contribution to implementing the Geneva process. The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan are convinced that full and conscientious fulfillment by all sides of the pledges they have assumed under the Geneva agreements will make it possible to achieve the quickest solution to the external aspects of the Afghan problem, and this in its turn will be an important fillip to a complete and all-embracing Afghan settlement.

They are also convinced that the Geneva experience will stimulate the quest for solutions to other regional conflicts, notwithstanding all their specific complexities and particular features.

Najibullah Address at 14 May News Conference

LD1405212088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, gave a news conference today in the Storey Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for number of foreign journalists. They are in Kabul to report on the ceremony to mark the implementation of the Geneva accords, part of which is the beginning of the withdrawal of the limited units of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Prior to answering journalists' questions, Esteemed Najibullah delivered a preliminary address, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin Najibullah recording] Esteemed friends, ladies and gentlemen. I welcome your arrival in Kabul, the place where you will witness formidable, important, and historic events, not only for our country but for all the world.

There are sufficient reasons to call the spring of this year the spring of Afghanistan, because the most important historic event—the signing of the Geneva accords, a response to complicated and difficult problems which confronted our planet—has started. The signing of the Geneva agreements created an objective prospect for the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan. The time of hope changes to the time of common action by all the participants in the Geneva process.

We expect from all of you, friends, to tell the world that the Republic of Afghanistan abides totally and completely by the Geneva agreements. Many times we have asserted that the guarantee of noninterference in the internal affairs of our country, Afghanistan, makes possible the return of the limited contingents of Soviet forces to their peace-loving country. At a difficult time we asked our friends and neighbors for help in protecting our country's independence, freedom, and territorial integrity.

Our people will doubtlessly always remember the internationalist troops who came to our country for this purpose as our friends. The more time passes, the more we distance ourselves from difficult time, the more the people of Afghanistan will feel the historic and great importance of this friendship of the Soviet troops, who were with us in every success, misery, and failure.

The limited units of Soviet troops did not allow Afghanistan to become a springboard in our region. The black agents came to segregate Afghanistan to satisfy their sinister aims. But the Soviet forces helped us to protect the integrity and national sovereignty of our country. I, as an Afghan, cannot forget such an act of chivalry.

The Geneva agreements provide an opportunity to those compatriots who, for various reasons chose to live outside the country as refugees, to return home. In this connection the Government of Afghanistan has a serious attitude, and has set up a committee on refugee affairs within the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan to solve socioeconomic problems pertaining to returnees. This committee has many provincial offices.

A special fund has been set up in the state budget to meet the needs of returnees. A series of laws have been passed in line with which the property of returnees will be returned to them. Financial facilities are available to them, and all their civic and political rights are guaranteed. The refugees have the right to return to the country where they themselves want to live.

No doubt the Geneva talks can bring about lofty and positive results, provided noninterference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the practical application of the control mechanism are seriously guaranteed. The first steps in this direction have been taken. The UN supervisory group has arrived in Kabul, and contacts are being made which promise useful cooperation.

Two years ago after the 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum we declared a new political policy in our country, the policy of national reconciliation. The results of the past 2 years show that we are on the right path. We have learned to implement the plans in practice and in life.

With the announcement of this policy, the PDPA dispensed with power or a monopoly on power and has persistently called on other forces to join in the process of national reconciliation and has ensured this in practice. The national reconciliation policy is the policy of common sense and the manifestation of the new political thinking. No PDPA slogan has ever at any time received such a welcome, and support and backing from the people of Afghanistan. National reconciliation has brought about new changes in the political system of Afghanistan. A multiparty political system and a coalition administration are laid out in the Constitution and other laws.

We have announced the policy of national reconciliation on the basis of compromise and dialogue with all political forces. Our invitation for compromise and dialogue to the leaders of the seven-party opposition alliance, to the second-level commanders of the armed opposition, to commanders of the armed groups inside the country, and to leaders of political circles who are in exile, including Zahir Shah, has become well known.

We can claim that the policy of national reconciliation has produced (?positive results).

All provincial capitals and about 10,000 villages are under the government's control. About 50,000 armed men have come over to the side of the government and we are working systematically for the acceptance of the refugees. During the past year, 130,000 refugees, an increase of 10 times over previous years, returned to our homeland, their own country. We have made preparations for the acceptance of about 1 million refugees in the near future and we are hoping to solve this problem with the help of the experience we have gained.

The national reconciliation policy has positively influenced the country's economic growth and development in the social sphere. The role of private investors is constantly increasing. Our esteemed friends are aware that the economy of our country is a mixed economy and the state supports and protects all these (?sectors).

One of the most important results of the national reconciliation policy is the completion of the government's organizational system and the country's political structure.

In 10 days the first session of the Meli Shura, [National Assembly] which was created for the first time in the history of Afghanistan in a democratic manner on the basis of direct and general elections, will be convened. On the threshold of the Afghan parliament's opening, we once again announce to the opposition the list of proposed positions in government organs in the capital and the provinces for the opposition.

With confidence and trust I can say that there are sensible people in the opposition who are able to perceive the issues and desires of the people of Afghanistan.

Once again we ask the leaders of the opposition groups to come to Kabul or wherever they want to sit around the negotiating table because the people of Afghanistan await peace, not the continuation of endless clashes which have resulted in meaningless sacrifices. This must draw the attention of all political forces who claim a role in the sociopolitical life of society.

I want to point out again that in 10 days the parliament of Afghanistan, which was elected by 1.6 million compatriots, will meet, and we are waiting for the opposition to join the parliament. Many places have been kept vacant for them.

Dear friends, we do not talk here about our successes. Without a doubt our country still faces many complicated, complex unresolved problems. However, the root of all our difficulties is the war, which limits the resources of the April Revolution, the national and democratic revolution in the interest of our people. The war keeps our country in a state of backwardness and stagnancy. You know very well that the path to 15 May has been a long one. It was opened in 1981 by our very first constructive proposals on a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

The famous statement M.S. Gorbachev delivered in 1986 in Vladivostok, contributed to brightening the principles of resolving many issues. The Afghan and Soviet Government statements of 8 February 1988, and also our meeting with M.S. Gorbachev in Tashkent and the issuing of a joint Afghan-Soviet communique concerning the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, gave a fresh impetus to the Geneva talks, bestowing a positive effect on them, which paved the ground for the signing of the Geneva accords and for achievements in this direction.

Many countries, politicians, and international organizations have played their part in the political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. On behalf of Afghanistan's people, we express our whole-hearted appreciation to the leadership of the Soviet Union and to M.S. Gorbachev; to the UN secretary general; to the special envoy of the secretary general, Esteemed Mr Diego Cordovez; to the countries who participated in the negotiations; to the countries which are the guarantors of these negotiations; and also to our neighboring countries. Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express our profound thanks to you, esteemed journalists, for your efforts in making several visits to reflect the incidents which were worrying us in Afghanistan. You have done a lot to help make this day possible.

It should be said that Afghanistan today is the focus of attention of political and social personalities, and academics of international societies. Many views have been expressed concerning the future of our country, Afghanistan. Special assistance programs for the economic and social development of Afghanistan, and the expansion and strengthening of international ties have been discussed. We have heard all the proposals. We will pay attention to all programs and plans which are acceptable to our country.

One question is usually asked. Today, too, this question is under discussion. Will Kabul last? Will the present government remain? We [word indistinct] the reply to this question for a long time, particularly since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy has prepared and announced a reply. In a single sentence, spoken clearly and will full confidence: We will last, for we struggle for the sake of peace. Peace is the profound wish of our people. Our opposition reveals its goal in this slogan: War until final victory, for which our people have hatred. The majority of these idle-talking prejudiced supporters of the so-called sacred war of Afghans, who draw all Afghans to war, are busy buying magnificent villas in foreign countries and are busy increasing their silver and gold, and assets in foreign banks.

You, esteemed journalists, will now better understand who wants peace in Afghanistan, in our territory, and who desires further bloodshed for the sake of their selfish, ambitious, and personal motives.

However, it should be said with a loud voice that those who want to create obstacles to the Geneva accords will bear a great and dangerous responsibility. These forces not only act against the government in Kabul, but they strive to destroy the confidence and hope created among the world's people by the Geneva accords. With the firing of missiles over Kabul that you hear, they are firing over the future of international societies. In fact, they act against all international agreements and commitments. I think this international society has left behind many wars, taken the first steps toward the bright path of peace, and will not remain indifferent to its future. [end recording]

[Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 16 May in the Morning Edition on pages one and six adds: "The president said that the government had taken a decision to create a Council of Minister's Office for the North. The office was set up to promptly solve problems connected with the economic and social development of this vital region of the country, which today accounts for nearly half of Afghanistan's entire national product. He refuted rumors alleging that the government itself intended to move to the north and start dividing the country. There is no question of dividing the country, the Afghan leader said."]

[Moscow TASS in English at 2140 GMT on 14 May adds: "The PDPA sees its main role today in uniting all political forces of the country in the name of attaining the great national goal—the restoration of peace and unity in Afghanistan. The party renounced the monopoly on power, managed to rise above the narrow party interests in the name of national interests. But we are convinced that the PDPA will not only preserve but also strengthen its moral and political prestige under the conditions of the coalition government. The party is growing. Over the past six months its membership increased by 30,000 members and reached 205,000 people."]

Soviets Begin Troop Withdrawal 15 May

BK1505032588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0320 GMT 15 May 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, May 15 (AFP)—Soviet troops began pulling out of Afghanistan Sunday, eight-and-a-half years after they came to this wild and rugged country to prop up its faction-ridden communist government.

Some 1,000 soldiers from the eastern garrison town of Jalalabad, about 150 kilometres (90 miles) away, were due to arrive here by road Sunday en route for the mountainous Salang highway which will take them home to the Soviet Union.

Officials said the trip from Jalalabad to Kabul could take several hours because the convoy of jeeps, tanks and armoured personnel carriers was moving slowly.

About 30 journalists, mainly Moscow-based, were flown to Jalalabad by the authorities late Saturday to watch the convoy set off.

The commanding officer of Soviet forces in Afghanistan Lieutenant-General Boris Gromov told a press conference here Saturday that a quarter of the Soviet Union's troops would leave before U.S. President Ronald Reagan arrives in Moscow on May 29 for his summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. [pasage omitted]

Convoy Passes Through Kabul

BK1505170488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1649 GMT 15 May 88

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, May 15 (AFP)—The first Soviet military convoy withdrawing from Afghanistan pulled into Kabul on their way home Sunday to a heroes' welcome from Afghan troops and police but little civilian reaction, witnesses said.

Hundreds of cheering Afghan Government soldiers and policemen greeted the dusty convoy as it rumbled in from the strategic eastern garrison town of Jalalabad, but there were few civilians present apart from a few urchins and school children shouting "bye bye."

The 300 camouflaged trucks, armoured personnel carriers, light tanks and mobile anti-aircraft batteries were manned by a rifle brigade of an estimated 1,200 men.

They were the first troops pulling out in a nine-month phased withdrawal under a UN-mediated accord after an eight and a half year military intervention to support the communist government in Kabul.

Soviet Colonel Aleksandr Zubrilin reported no casualties when the convoy reached Kabul after the 150-kilometer (90 mile) journey through mountain gorges and rocky valleys, during which the convoy regularly ground to a frightening standstill, an agency pool report said.

U.S.-backed Moslem rebels have said they would continue harassing Soviet troops as they withdraw, and mujahidin sources in Peshawar, Pakistan, said Sunday that Soviet and Afghan aircraft had bombed areas near the Jalalabad-Kabul highway Saturday to prevent rebels concentrating forces before the withdrawal.

Children in Jalalabad threw flowers and dung as the convoy prepared to cross the rebel-held mountains to Kabul, the pool report said.

The convoy pulled out at around 7.30 a.m. after a parade at which military officers read out a message from the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee saying that the soldiers' services were now needed in the fight for perestroyka, or restructuring, under way in the Soviet Union.

At one point, shooting could be heard in distant hills, the pool report said. Soviet General Vladimir Bogdanov said that the most dangerous part of the journey was just ouside Jalalabad, as the convoy passed through hills known in Russian as the "black mountains," a known rebel stronghold.

In Kabul, Afghan military generals joined ordinary conscripts in greeting the departing Soviet soldiers, who replied with clenched fist salutes, witnesses said.

The mountain-top capital of more than a million people was under heavy security Sunday, with hundreds of Afghan soldiers manning frequent checkpoints, and Soviet tanks and armoured personnel carriers at entry points into the city.

But traffic was as busy as usual for a Sunday, a regular working day, and people out in the bright sunshine found that posters showing smiling Soviet soldiers waving goodbye had sprung up overnight on lamp-posts, trees and walls.

Hundreds of Sarandoy, or people's police, lined Kabul's outer security perimeter as the convoy in three formations made a right turn into the Afghan capital from the Jalalabad highway, witnesses said.

Many ran up to the vehicles to hand over paper flowers and letters to the departing troops, who happily posed for photographs. Some even took pictures of their own from inside armoured vehicles.

Afghan military generals waved red flags from reviewing stands set up at the point of entry into Kabul.

Military bands played the Afghan and Soviet national anthems, while loud-hailers blared out revolutionary songs and songs praising Afghan-Soviet friendship. The journey from Jalalabad took the slow-moving convoy nine hours and 56 minutes.

Afghan officials said the soldiers were expected to spend the night at Khayr Khana, a military cantonment area here, and set off Monday along the Salang highway on the 290 kilometer (180 mile) journey to the Soviet border in northern Afghanistan, which is expected to take about three days.

Gen Bogdanov said another three convoys would bring the remaining Soviet troops out of Jalalabad, completing their evacuation in two weeks. The same number of soldiers would be in each convoy, with the next one scheduled to leave in three days' time, the pool report said.

The Geneva accords which paved the way for the withdrawal, signed by Islamabad and Kabul with Moscow and Washington as guarantors, provide for the withdrawal of half the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan by mid-August, with the rest leaving by February 15, 1989, at the latest.

Troops Leave Jalalabad

LD1505201488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 May 88

[Excerpts] Today, 15 May 1988, in conforming with the Geneva accords, the limited Soviet military contingents after fulfilling their internationalist duties in the Republic of Afghanistan have returned to their peace-loving country.

BIA's military correspondents report from Jalalabad that a ceremony was held on the occasion of the return of the limited Soviet military contingents. Participating were a number of party and state officials in Nangarhar, a UN goodwill delegation, observers tasked with implementing the Geneva accords, school children, university students, workers, state employees, and a large number of citizens of Jalalabad, in the Samar Kheyl region. Two officers from the limited Soviet contingents gave talks on good-neighborly relations and mutual cooperation.

Major General Muhammad Yasif Delawar, Central Military Corps commander, and Sarafaraz Muhammad, party provincial committee secretary in Nangarhar, spoke on the cooperation and assistance given by the limited Soviet military contingents to our people during the hard days, under conditions of an undeclared war against our country. He [not further identified] said: While we will always remember the coopeation of our Soviet friends, I want to state with full confidence that the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are capable of bravely defending and protecting the country's territorial integrity, national sovereignty, independence, and the gains of the April Revolution. [passage omitted]

A letter of commendation from the Afghan Army's General Directorate of Political Affairs was then given to a commander of the limited Soviet military contingents by the Central Military Corps commander. Moreover, a number of Soviet officers answered questions from foreign journalists.

The return of the limited Soviet contingents then began, as they left Jalalabad for their peace-loving country. [passage omitted]

The internationalist Soviet soldiers and officers bid farewell to party and state officials, armed forces personnel, and citizens of Jalalabad, and left Jalalabad for Kabul. Along the Jalalabad-Kabul highway, these Soviet units were warmly welcomed and seen off by local residents, who gave them flowers.

Another report says the limited Soviet military contingents arrived by land in Kabul at around 1600. The BIA's military section reports that, in the presence of the UN goodwill delegation, accord implementation observers, and foreign and domestic journalists, the Soviet units were welcomed by a number of soldiers and officers, military trainees, and representatives of Kabul workers, who offered them flowers and shouted slogans. This took place at the Pol-e Charkhi industrial park in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Soviet Commander Holds News Conference 15 May

LD1505090788 Kabul BAKTAR in English 0439 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR—A press conference was held here today on the occasion of the return of the Soviet limited military contingent from Afghanistan to their country which constitutes a part of the implementation of Geneva accords. The press conference was attended by domestic and foreign journalists who are here on the occasion.

At the beginning of the press conference, commander of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, said that the return of Soviet troops begins on May 15, and will be completed in mine months until February 15, 1989.

It should be pointed out that half of the Soviet soldiers will return from Afghanistan in the first three months. The historical mission of Soviet officers and soldiers, who were here at the request of the Government of Afghanistan in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations Charter [as received] and a bilateral agreement between the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan has been fulfilled, he said.

The Geneva agreements are the outcome of the consistent struggles of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, other peace-loving countries aimed at terminating foreign intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The subsequent destiny of political normalisation of the situation around Afghanistan now depend on the fact that to what extent the sides involved adhere consistently to their commitments.

It is imperative [to] stress upon it, because some political and state figures who are running counter to interest of peace in Afghanistan make their stand clear, he said.

We are heartily interested that Afghanistan be as independent, non-aligned and neutral state. The Soviet Union, he went on, believes that the territory of Afghanistan or part of it will never be used for hostile objectives against its neighbours.

The Soviet leadership and the Government of Afghanistan call upon other states to respect and adhere to Geneva accords, to undeviatedly implement them and to help in stabilising peace, progress and national reconciliation.

There exists friendly, traditional and historical relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union will expand its cooperation to Afghanistan helping to the rehabilitation of the country's national economy and will assist in its socio-economic growth.

The return of Soviet troops should not have a negative impact on the activity and life of the people of Afghanistan. But we do not overlook the activities of the military opposition who rejected the Geneva accords.

We are delivering not only, Boris Gromov said, our responsibility areas to the Armed Forces of Afghanistan but also the military townships, some of which can be used for social projects such as first aid centres, schools, hospitals, kindergartens and for cultural centres.

It should be stated that besides the military tasks the Soviet internationalist soldiers have done great work in rendering gratis and humanistic aids to Afghan villagers, for instance in the year 1987 one hundred thousand residents of the villages approached us for assistance. Thousands volumes of notebooks were given to the schools and work emulation drives were carried out in construction of roads, social and cultural projects in villages for returnees and systems of irrigation.

The people of Afghanistan are eager to have peace. We notice, he added, how the process of national reconciliation expands and strengthens. Our contacts with a number of leaders of the armed opposition detachments who confessed on the need of ensurance of peace in Afghanistan is manifestation of this facts.

Like other commitments the agreement on the return of the Soviet troops has an irreversible character. The Government of Afghanistan has announced its strong determination for the implementation of the agreements. The future events around this country depends considerably to the practical policy of the U.S. Administration and to what extent the Pakistani side persistently and exactly respects the agreements.

The commencement of the solution of the Afghanistan problem should concept [as received] to an impetus for the solution of the various conflicts in our planet.

We will never forget the memory of those who under hard and difficult conditions have devoted their lives for peace and defending Afghanistan.

General Gromov at the end of his preliminary speech answered the questions of journalists from various countries.

More Troops To Leave by 29 May

BK1405094588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 14 May 88

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, May 14 (AFP)—The Soviet Union will pull out about a quarter of its troops from Afghanistan ahead of the May 29 superpower summit in Moscow, the commander of Soviet troops in Afghanistan said here Saturday.

Lieutenant General Boris Gromov did not, however, specify exactly how many soldiers would be withdrawn from Afghanistan before the meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Some 115,000 Soviet troops are estimated to be in Afghanistan and Western diplomatic sources here say that some 20,000 to 30,000 would be withdrawn by the end of May.

The withdrawal, mediated by the United Nations in an accord signed by Islamabad and Kabul in Geneva on April 14, is due to begin Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Gromov told a press conference here on the eve of the start of the withdrawal that about 1,000 soldiers would begin pulling out from the eastern garrison town of Jalalabad on Sunday.

Jalalabad, also an important commercial centre, would be completely handed over to Soviet-backed Afghan Government forces before the withdrawal begins and no Soviet soldiers would be left in the town after Sunday, he said.

The withdrawal will be mainly by road in the initial stages, along the Salang highway in the north and via Herat in the west, the general added.

Fifty per cent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan are to be withdrawn by mid-August and the rest are to leave by February 29, 1989 at the latest under the Geneva accord.

"I am confident that the time-table will be fulfilled," Lt. Gen. Gromov, who has been in Afghanistan for three years, said through an interpreter.

"Nothing will be able to frustrate it (the time-table)," he said.

The 50 per cent of troops to leave by August 15 will be vacating 11 garrisons in nine provinces.

The 45-year-old general said an estimated 600 million roubles (960 million U.S. dollars) worth of military equipment in 18 garrisons or 170 military bases would be handed over to Kabul government forces.

Soviet barracks and other "military compounds" will be turned over too, for use as schools and hospitals, he said.

The general emphasized that the withdrawal was not a retreat and denied that the pull-out amounted to a military defeat for Moscow.

"Soviet soldiers are going home with the satisfaction of having fulfilled their internationalist mission—a mission they undertook on the request of the Afghan Government," he said.

"There is no question of military defeat. This withdrawal is no retreat," Lt. Gen. Gromov added.

He said the Geneva accord had been made possible by "new political thinking" (in the Kremlin) and he attributed it to the "path taken by Gorbachev."

He repeated Kabul government assertions that the Afghan Armed Forces were prepared to defend against the Afghan resistance, or mujahidin, who have rejected the Geneva accord and vowed to continue their nine-year-old war.

"I have no doubt about the combat efficiency of the Afghan Armed Forces," Lt. Gen. Gromov said.

But he admitted that the mujahidin were today better-armed and better-trained than they were when Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in December 1979.

"Nevertheless I believe that they (the mujahidin) will try to reconcile with the government and stop armed combat," he said.

The general also denied that Afghan civilians had been subjected to bombardment by Soviet forces, but added that some mistakes had been made.

"However, these errors were of an inconsiderable nature," he said without elaborating.

Lt. Gen. Gromov also said that the experience gained by his troops in Afghanistan would be useful in training the Soviet military.

Najibullah, Keshtmand 15 May Message to Soviets
LD1505142888 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
0600 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Kabul, 14 May (BAKHTAR)—A message has been sent to the Soviet leadership by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, on the occasion of the beginning of the implementation of the Geneva accords.

Here is the text of the message:

Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade A.A. Gromyko, president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

Dear comrades,

Today, 26 Sawr 1367, that is, 15 May 1988, corresponds with date of enforcement of the Geneva accords concerning the political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. We hope that the strict implementation of these accords, which have been achieved as a result of joint efforts by all the sides concerned, in light of the new political thinking, will lead to an end to the interference from abroad in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and resolve the foreign aspects of the Afghanistan issue. Our compatriots who live abroad will return to their homes and the Soviet forces will return to their country.

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan and all the people of Afghanistan, to express our profound appreciation to the great Soviet people, to the CPSU Central Committee, to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and to the Soviet Government for their all-round support for our struggle for a free, sovereign, nonaligned, and neutral Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union helped Afghanistan during one of the most difficult and tense periods of its history, based on the agreement on friendship, cooperation, and good-neighborliness dated 5 December 1978. All patriotic Afghans will remember forever the heroism of the Soviet internationalist combatants in Afghanistan in defense of its freedom and independence. We bow with respect to the shining memory of those Soviet sons who sacrificed their lives and shed their blood in fulfilling this high mission. Let the families and relatives and all the Soviet people know that their blood has not been shed needlessly. The people of Afghanistan will continue along the path of peace and progress.

The traditional and friendly Afghan-Soviet relations, meeting the vital interests of the peoples of the two countries, continue and will develop in the future too. We wish great and further successes for the people of the Soviet Union and for the leaders of the Soviet Union in implementing the policy of restructuring Soviet society and in the struggle to ensure peace and security on our planet.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan

---

Rebels Launch Missile Attack on Kabul 14 May
LD1505093488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR—The extremist groups by resorting to a shameful act martyred three persons, two children and an old man and wounded a number of others by launching surface to surface rockets on Baraqi area of Kabul city. The injured were transferred to the hospital and their health condition is reported improving.

Bomb Planted on Kabul Bridge Explodes, Kills 10
LD1405144788 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Kabul, 15 May (BAKHTAR)—This morning the treacherous extremists, the professional murderers and enemies of our compatriots' peaceful life perpetrated another treacherous, anti-humane, and anti-Islamic action during the holy month of Ramadan, and [words indistinct].

The BIA correspondent reports that at 0530 extremist elements planted a quantity of (?Trotile)-type explosives in a motor vehicle near Pol-e Mahmud Khan bridge [in Kabul city]. The explosion killed 10 of our compatriots and injured 13 others, including women and children. Two houses were also destroyed.

The injured were immediately taken to hospital by the security forces, where their condition is reported to be improving.

Mujahidin Attack Soviet Embassy in Kabul 14 May

LD1505172488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked the Soviet Embassy in Kabul on Friday afternoon. As yet there are no figures available concerning the losses or damage caused as a result of the attack. The report adds that Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also attacked the headquarters of the occupation forces in the Dar ol Aman district of the city of Kabul at the same time. As a result of the attack, the headquarters was set on fire.

Landmine Kills Mujahidin Commander in Chamkani

BK1405110488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1046 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 14 (AFP)—Landmine explosions in eastern Paktia Province have killed a prominent Afghan rebel leader and 11 other mujahidin, the anti-Kabul Hezb-e Eslami group said here Saturday.

A statement from the group led by Muhammad Yunis Khalis said Commander Atiqullah and his men were blown up Thursday by anti-personnel mines laid in the Chamkani Garrison which the Afghan Army abandoned after Soviet troops vacated the area last week.

Withdrawing Soviet and Afghan troops regularly mine military installations as they evacuate them to prevent their use by rebel guerrillas, resistance sources said.

The Hezb-e Eslami communique said Atiqullah, the party's main commander in the area, had been involved in guerrilla warfare since the resistance began nine years ago and was responsible for repeated attacks on the Chamkani Garrison.

'Terrorist' Bombs Discovered in Jalalabad, Kabul

LD1505101488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] A fiendish plot by elements connected with the extremist groups who wanted to martyr a group of our compatriots by planting 4 kilograms of explosives in electricity station No 5 in Jalalabad city and disrupt the transmission of electricity in that area, was discovered and neutralized by security officers.

BAKHTAR's military section reported to us that Juma Khan and Qumandan, of Sorkhrod district, who were planning to plant the explosives were arrested. A total of 75 booby trapped clocks and a pistol were seized following a search of their homes.

Similarly, explosives placed in a children's park in Jalalabad's No 3 district in order to martyr innocent children were discovered by the security forces and were neutralized before they could be exploded.

BAKHTAR reports that a terrorist was arrested as he was trying to plant explosives at the Jalalabad bus station near Pol-e Mahmud Khan, in Kabul before he could complete his shameless act. This terrorist introduces himself as Shiwar, son of Safdar, of Laghman Province, and a member of the Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] band.

Decree Issued on National Assembly Session

LD1305160688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The presidential office has reported to BAKHTAR that Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has approved decree No 235, 13 May 1988, as follows:

Decree on the inauguration of the first legislative session of the Meli Shura [National Assembly] of the Republic of Afghanistan:

According to Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, we invite to Kabul, capital of the Republic of Afghanistan, those who succeeded in the recent elections as candidates to the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, to attend the first session of the legislative term of the Meli Shura, bringing with them their credentials.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan

India

Security Forces, Sikhs Clash at Golden Temple

Prakash Singh Badal Arrested

BK1405081288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] In Amritsar, security forces have consolidated their position and tightened their grip over all the escape routes from the Golden Temple complex. Intermittent firing by terrorists from inside the temple complex and the security forces from outside continued throughout last night.

The security forces have set up their positions on four buildings outside the temple complex. The buildings include Guru Ramdas sarai [hostel in the Golden Temple complex] and Akal rest house.

An official spokesman has denied press reports that the security forces have occupied the lunger [public feeding place] and the Manji Sahib Gurdwara [Sikh temple].

The spokesman also clarified that security forces deployed around the complex comprise only of police and paramilitary troops and no Army commandos have been sent.

According to PTI, one person surrendered to the security forces this morning. He rushed out of the Ghantaghar Sahib and claimed that he was a stranded devotee.

Mr Prakash Singh Badal and 70 others belonging to Unified Akali Dal were arrested in Chandigarh this morning for apprehension [as heard] of breach of peace. They were trying to march to Amritsar. Earlier, Mr Joginder Singh Rhode was taken into custody for the same reason.

Punjab Governor Issues Warning

BK1405173088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] New Delhi, May 14 (AFP)—Punjab State Governor Siddarth Shankar Ray Saturday night warned armed Sikh militants holed up in the Golden Temple to surrender or face a "real offensive", the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

"If the terrorists do not listen to reason and are determined to bring about a violent confrontation, the government shall not be either weak or impotent, nor remain an idle spectator," PTI quoted Mr Ray as saying in a statement issued in the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh.

Mr Ray said the government had not yet started a "real offensive which in the end will no doubt free the temple of evil persons." However Mr Ray stressed that the Sikh militants holed up in Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest shrine in Sikhdom, should be given a last chance.

He added that the government would not take a single step without consideration of the emotional feelings of the community. "Unless the remaining (militants) listen to reason they face certain apprehension or death in a matter of days. They should be given a last opportunity," PTI quoted Mr Ray as saying.

At least 23 people have died, 4 of them civilians, in intense exchanges of light machine gun and rifle fire since Monday between an estimated 70 to 80 militants and 3,000 government paramilitary troops surrounding the Golden Temple in Punjab's border city of Amritsar.

Mr Ray's statement was issued as police in Amritsar reimposed a night curfew on the walled city area surrounding the temple.

Police said seven volunteer workers and 10 Sikh militants had managed to escape from the temple complex late Friday and Saturday.

A group of children who tried to break out during a 15 minute cease-fire Saturday afternoon were driven back by militant gunfire from within the temple, Punjab Police Chief K.P.S. Gill said.

100 Persons Surrender 15 May

BK1505080688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Over 100 persons, including about 15 women and 5 children, have surrendered from inside the Golden Temple today. An appeal was made by the district admininstration on the public address system at 1100 [0530 GMT] to the terrorists to come out.

Later Baba Utam Singh of Khadur Saheb also made an appeal to them to come out. The director general of police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen in the Guru Ramdas sarai just after the surrender that all of them will be screened.

He said at first 28 persons, including a woman, came out and the others followed a little after.

A Home Ministry spokesman described this as a remarkable achievement by the security forces. They were able to accomplish this without entering the Golden Temple complex, including the parikrama [walkway around the Golden Temple], Harminder Sahib, Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] and the Darshini Deori [entrance to the main shrine].

Two persons having bullet injuries are being given treatment. Immediately after the surrender, police personnel provided milk for the infants. Among those who surrendered today, there are some followers of Baba Uttam Singh.

Earlier, a fire broke out in the upper portion of the clocktower around 0900. It continued for about 90 minutes. According to police sources, the fire was started by the terrorists themselves and they continued firing to keep the fire tenders away.

Meanwhile, in Chandigarh, the former acting chief of Akal Takht, Prof Darshan Singh Ragi, and 13 others were detained by the police this morning for breach of peace. They were trying to go to Amritsar to defy the curfew orders in vogue there.

7 'Terrorists' Surrender

BK1505131288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 May 88

[Excerpts] In Amritsar, seven of the dreaded terrorists carrying rewards of their heads are among those who surrendered to the security forces at the Golden Temple complex today. Surjit Singh Penta committed suicide by swallowing some poison after being identified.

Other terrorists who surrendered are Harcharan Singh, brother of Penta; Sakattar Singh, Charanjit Singh, Lab Singh alias Lavo, German Singh, and Jagtar Singh Ranga, a close associate of Gurcharan Singh Manochar.

Jagir Singh, a spokesman of the Panthic Committee is among those killed by the security forces. Penta had masterminded a number of killings, including the killings in Chittaranjan Park in New Delhi last year.

Giving details to newsmen this evening, the director general of Punjab police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said that according to the preliminary interrogations of those arrested, it is estimated that there are about 30 to 40 terrorists still inside the Golden Temple. Mr Gill said 146 persons, including terrorists, 18 women, and 8 children, came out of the Golden Temple.

The district administration continues to appeal to those inside the Golden Temple to come out between 1100 and 1330 [0530-0800 GMT]. Baba Uttam Singh of Khadur Saheb also made a similar appeal. Eight of those, who came out with injuries, were given treatment.

An official spokesman said that the security forces have not entered the Golden Temple. They are taking all precautions that innocent people are not hurt. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in Chandigarh, the former acting chief of Akal Takht, Professor Darshan Singh Ragi, and 13 others have been detained by the police for breach of peace. They were trying to go to Amritsar to defy the curfew orders.

Opposition Supports Action

BK1505164288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 88

[Excerpts] In Amritsar, nearly 150 people, including 7 dreaded terrorists carrying rewards on their heads, came out of the Golden Temple complex and surrendered to the security forces today. [passage omitted]

The former acting chief of Akal Takht, Professor Darshan Singh Ragi, and 13 others have been detained by the police in Chandigarh for breach of peace. They were trying to go to Amritsar to defy the curfew orders.

Giani Puran Singh, head granthi [scripture reader] of the Golden Temple and 40 others were arrested in Amritsar this morning on the same ground.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said that the surrender of persons, including some hardcore terrorists, clearly shows that government's action of surrounding the Golden Temple was absolutely necessary and justified.

In a statement he reiterated the government's determination to cleanse the Golden Temple of terrorists. He urged the Akali Dal leaders to give up their agitational path.

Leaders of opposition parties in parliament today extended their full support to the action taken by the government in clearing parts of the Golden Temple complex occupied by terrorists. At a meeting with the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in New Delhi they also expressed appreciation of the difficult operations executed with great restraint by the security forces. They also noted that the security forces had taken no casualties in the operations so far.

The home minister earlier gave a detailed account of developments in the Golden Temple complex from the beginning of this month. He assured the leaders that the government is committed to the policy of freeing the Golden Temple from the hold of terrorists through careful action by the security forces.

Mr L.K. Advani, Mr Samar Mukherjee, and Professor N.G. Ranga, while discussing the role of political parties in dealing with the situation, criticized the Akali parties for their attempt to arouse public feelings against the government action instead of mobilizing public opinion against terrorists who had defiled the sanctity of the holy temple.

Others who took part in the meeting, included Mr Virendra Verma, General J.S. Arora, Mr Dinesh Goshwami, and Tridip Chowdhury. The government side was represented by Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, Mr P.Chidambaram, and Mr Sheila Dikshit.

The jathedar [priest] of Akal Takht Patna Sahib, Bhai Man Singh, has appealed to the terrorists inside the Golden Temple complex to surrender to the security forces.

In a statement he said the terrorists have adopted a provocative stand. He said the sanctity of the temple must be observed at all cost. He also appealed to the government to take steps to restore normalcy after the surrender of the terrorists.

25 'Terrorists' Surrender 15 May

BK1605033488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] In Amritsar, intermittent firing by terrorists and the security forces in the Golden Temple complex area continued throughout last night. The director general of Punjab police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the terrorists opened heavy fire from inside the temple complex for a short while early this morning.

The security forces returned the fire. Mr Gill said the terrorists still holding out inside the temple complex will be given another chance to surrender today. Of those who surrendered yesterday, 25 have been identified as hardcore terrorists.

Mr Gill said 15 of them belong to the so-called Khalistan Commando Force. The screening of the surrendered persons is continuing. [passage omitted]

The terrorists, entrenched in the Golden Temple complex, set fire to some unknown objects of the clock tower with kerosene and diesel stored inside the fortifications built by them.

As a result, some of the walls of the tower, which is the main entrance to the temple, got blackened with soot and smoke. Home Ministry sources have said that the tower is absolutely intact and suffered no damage.

Attempts to put out the fire with the help of fire brigade failed as the terrorists kept up continuous firing from inside the complex.

Meanwhile, 5 persons were killed and 22, including 3 policemen, were seriously injured, when some jeep-borne terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in Chowktaliwallah in Rajpura town of Patiala District last night.

Gandhi Comments on Punjab, Pakistan

BK1305162188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that no leniency will be shown in dealing with the situation in Punjab. He said certain outside forces are helping antinational elements.

Addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi accused Pakistan of acquiring sophisticated arms on the pretext of the Afghan problem.

He said there is no need for Islamabad to continue with this extraordinary ambitious program after the signing of the Geneva agreement. Mr Gandhi made it clear that the country's security will not be compromised on any front whatsoever. He described his recent talks with Dr Najibullah as fruitful.

Referring to the recent elections in Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said the results have shown that the people there have extended full support to the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. He said in the last 1 or 2 years, there were pressures from various fronts which were faced boldly.

Accusing the opposition of adopting unfair tactics to weaken the government, Mr Gandhi said the points raised by them inside and outside the parliament were fully answered.

He said the government is making efforts to solve the unemployment problem and chalking out strategies to better the condition of the poor.

Pakistani Interior Secretary Arrives for Talks

BK1305164488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The home secretaries of India and Pakistan will be meeting in New Delhi tomorrow to discuss, among other things, issues relating to terrorism and smuggling across the border.

A nine-member Pakistani delegation headed by the interior secretary, Syed Khalid Mahmud, arrived in the capital this evening. The Indian delegation is being led by the union home secretary, Mr C.G. Somiah. The discussions are expected to last for 2 days.

Meets Home Secretary

BK1405160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Pakistan and India had in-depth talks today on issues relating to terrorism, transborder arms smuggling, and drugs. An official spokesman said that the talks, held in two sessions, continued for over 5 hours.

The discussion is expected to continue tomorrow. The Pakistani delegation is being led by the interior secretary, Syed Khalid Mahmud, and the Indian side by the home secretary, Mr C. G. Somiah.

Talks End 16 May

BK1605090088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] The talks between the home secretaries of India and Pakistan ended in New Delhi this afternoon. Matters relating to terrorism and smuggling across the border dominated the proceedings during the 3 days talks.

The Indian side was led by the home secretary, Mr C.G. Somiah, and the Pakistan interior secretary, Syed Khalid Mahmud, led his country's delegation.

Work on Fencing of Pakistan Border Progresses

BK1505084988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Chintamani Panigrahi, has said a bill to ban the use of religious places for political purposes is to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Speaking to newsmen in Simla today, he said the bill is now being drafted in consultation with various political parties. Mr Panigrahi also said steps are being taken to ensure that terrorists are not able to make the Golden Temple complex their stronghold again for carrying out antinational activities.

Mr Panigrahi said work on fencing of the Punjab border with Pakistan is fast progressing and when completed, it will help stop entry of arms and terrorists into Punjab from across the border.

EXPRESS on Bangladesh Border Problem

BK1605094488 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 May 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Bangladesh Border"]

[Text] The allegation that India has been arming the rebel Shanti Bahini in Bangladesh, made by President H.M. Ershad on Thursday, has been heard in the past from authorities in Dhaka.

New Delhi denied it on each occasion. One can argue that President Ershad's statement, as well as the opposition demand in the Bangladesh parliament on the same day for the closure of the Indian mission in Dhaka, were meant to divert attention from Dhaka's failure to deal with the insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tract districts, as well as to raise an external bogey to take the heat off the 21-party opposition front's movement which has made President Ershad acutely insecure.

That he is worried is suggested by the plan to make Islam Bangladesh's state religion, which clearly reflects an effort to woo fundamentalist support. That the opposition in Bangladesh parliament should play the President's game is hardly surprising.

It consists of miniscule parties which participated in the March 3 elections boycotted by the 21-party front comprising the eight-party and seven-party alliances headed by Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia respectively, the five-party leftist alliance and the Jamiat-e Islam.

Whatever President Ershad's calculations, India's denials have been robbed of a great deal of their credibility by its own admission of not only having armed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) but having paid it money for the post-ceasefire rehabilitation of its cadre.

Also, Bangladesh, a small country almost enclosed by India, is bound to share the reservations of all such small countries about their big neighbours. Whenever possible, New Delhi ought to allay Dhaka's misgivings.

On its part, Bangladesh must remember that any Indian assistance to the Shanti Bahini has to be seen in the context of its sustained provision of sanctuary and support to Tripura's insurgent Tribal National Volunteers.

Also, at the root of the insurgency in the Chittagong Hills Tract lies Dhaka's attempt to settle Bengali Muslims on the lands of the Buddhist Chakma, Murmu, and Larma tribes, and its brutal treatmenmt of these tribals, thousands of whom have sought refuge in India.

Instead of trading allegations, the two countries must sort out the problem of trans-border insurgency. Unfortunately, precious little has been done about the matter despite repeated vutual avowal of intention to do so.

Defense Minister Stresses Preparedness

BK1405161988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has called for a total national effort in defense preparedness. He said in the present security environment where a neighboring country is acquiring very advanced weapons, it is imperative that we remain prepared. This threat also calls for constant upgradation of the nation's capabilities.

He was speaking at a conference on interaction of defense with industry in New Delhi today.

The defense minister allayed fears that the government was about to close down the public sector defense units or to dilute their ownership and management. The government will like to retain control over the manufacture of lethal weapons and equipment.

It is an area in which considerations of overriding national importance rule out any significant departure from the existing policy. He made it clear that there will be no retrenchment in defense sector units.

The work force will be retained, skills upgraded and redeployed in such a way that the existing manpower are not rendered redundant.

Iran

Larak Raid 'Coordinated' by U.S., Iraq

LD1505111288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Coordination between the United States and the Iraqi regime in the attack on four oil tankers at Larak terminal has been revealed.

According to a Central Unit report, a high-ranking Air Force official has announced that, while the Iraqi air raid on oil tankers at Larak terminal was in progress, the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf engaged in electronic warfare against Iranian warplanes over the waterway. He said: During Iraq's 9-minute bombing of the four oil tankers at Larak, the U.S. fleet jammed the radar and radio of Iranian aircraft.

He added: The Iraqi planes flew over American warships on their way back. This shows the coordination between the United States and the Iraqi regime in the attack on the four oil tankers at Larak. He continued: An American plane conducted a reconnaissance mission over Larak 15 minutes after the Iraqi air raid on the tankers, and photographed the scene of the Iraqi bombing. He explained that the coordination between Washington and Baghdad in the attack reveals it was preplanned.

Commenting on the same incident, a WIH spokesman said: In the year that the American military has been in the Persian Gulf, we have repeatedly seen operations coordinated between Washington and Baghdad with the goal of dealing blows to Iranian interests.

He said: While claiming to be neutral in the imposed war, the United States is giving the Iraqi regime overt and practical support. The international public now sees its claim as baseless. He stressed that the United States will pay for putting pressure on the Iranian people.

Swiss Envoy Summoned Over U.S. Role in Attack

LD1505170088 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Swiss charge d'affaires to Tehran who is also in charge of the U.S. interest section here was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today and handed over a strongly-worded protest note against Washington's involvement in Saturday's Iraqi air attacks on Iranian oil tankers berthed at Larak Island.

U.S. naval ships based near the Strait of Hormuz jammed radars and radios of Iranian jet fighters flying over the Persian Gulf Saturday, thus helping Iraqi warplanes to bomb Iranian tankers and have a safe passage out.

The protest note strongly condemned U.S. complicity in the Iraqi air attacks as a blatant violation of Washington's so-called neutrality in the Iraqi-imposed war. It also said that the Islamic Republic reserves the right of legitimate self-defence.

Elsewhere in the note, the Islamic Republic warned that the U.S. is responsible for the heightened tension which might spread to the whole region.

Prime Minister Says Reagan Pushing U.S. To War

LD1505184888 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—The U.S. is responsible for the recent attacks on Iranian oil installations in the Persian Gulf, said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Sunday, adding "the Islamic Republic reserves the right of retaliation."

Premier Musavi speaking after today's Cabinet session, warned American people that the Reagan administration by getting more explicitly involved in the Iraqi regime's war is gradually pushing the U.S. to a war which, he said, could change the Persian Gulf to an "American graveyard".

Musavi addressing himself to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council said, "you who take up the cudgels for (implementing) Resolution 598, how come you continue to ignore U.S. crimes in the Persian Gulf?"

He continued, "some time back U.S. forces attacked Iranian rigs and you kept silent. Today U.S. forces, behaving like international hoodlums, openly trample Article 5 of the resolution but you maintain your unwarranted silence."

Last April U.S. naval forces attacked Iranian oil rigs in the Persian Gulf martyring and wounding some Iranian Oil Ministry personnel stationed there.

Discussed at the cabinet session was Saturday's Iraqi air raid on Larak oil terminal which was directly supported by the U.S. fleet.

Later, Minister of Health 'Ali Reza Marandi presented a report to the cabinet on the 41st annual session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) at Geneva. Marandi said Iran was nominated as a member of the WHO Executive Committee for three years.

Radio Analyzes U.S. Support for Iraqi Attacks

LD1505135088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 15 May 88

[Political commentary: "The Iraqi Regime's Latest Mischief and America's Support for It"]

[Text] The regime ruling Iraq has committed yet another misdeed in the Persian Gulf with the support and assistance of American forces. In a move coordinated with American vessels and aircraft, Iraqi planes attacked oil tankers berthed at Larak jetty yesterday, damaging several. According to reports from maritime sources, dozens of foreign sailors, primarily of Chinese extraction, were killed in this act of aggression.

A reliable source contacted by the Central News Unit noted that available intelligence indicates these operations were coordinated with U.S. forces. Here is how it was done: At the start of the action, the American forces jammed the radar system of the Islamic warriors, and as the operation was ending, they kept the airspace above their vessels open to Iraqi planes. Then, 15 minutes after Iraq's aggression, American aircraft flew over the scene of the incident and took photos.

This is one in a series of cases where, by supporting the Iraqi regime, the United States has directly entered the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This in itself is an indication of America's plans to create tension in the Persian Gulf.

It is no secret that in the wake of America's recent decision to extend its mission of protecting so-called neutral shipping, thus giving the Iraqi regime the chance to continue its aggression against Iranian vessels or those approaching Iranian oil terminals, the Persian Gulf could not remain peaceful or tranquil.

By following a strategy of support for the Iraqi regime's misdeeds, America's ringleaders are actually making the region a quagmire, into which the United States can easily step, but one it will find too expensive when it has to get out.

Deputy Minister Larijani's Pre-Sermon Address

LD1305184888 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—The first pre-sermon speaker of this week's Friday mass prayers here was Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani who delivered a speech on Iran's stands on the Iraqi-imposed war, the policies of arrogant powers and of their puppet regimes towards the Islamic Revolution.

In parts of his speech, Larijani blamed the U.S. for heightening tension in the region and for persuading the Riyadh regime to sever its ties with the Islamic Republic. The Riyadh regime's severance of relations with Iran will accelerate Saudi rulers' downfall, he said.

He blasted Saudi rulers for barring Iranian Muslims from performing this year's hajj pilgrimage and said that the world Muslims will never forget this issue.

The deputy foreign minister also advised regional governments to steer clear of the Iraqi regime in their dealing with Iran because enmity with Iran will in no way be in their interest.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Larijani in an address to those [as received] said the war was useless for Iraq because it failed to gain a military victory. He said that driving aggressor forces out of Iran will not satisfy Iran since, Iranian Muslim combatants are determined to fight the aggressor until its elimination.

"We have lost our hope for identification of the aggressor by the U.N. Security Council. We only rely on God and on our own forces," he said.

He also warned international bodies and world governments that they had failed to prevent the Baghdad regime from using chemical weapons, and noted that such a regime as that in Iraq which did not hesitate to attack its own people with poison gases will not hesitate to deploy such weapons against others in foreign lands.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1305182488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1308 GMT 13 May 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 13 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Jerusalem Day, which was announced by the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the first anniversary of the revolution, is an international day. In addition to our entire nation, many Muslims in other countries consider this a remarkable day and, if permitted by their governments and rulers, they hold marches and demonstrations. However, the full glory of today is marked in our country, as it is every year on the last Friday of Ramadan. People sincerely and wholeheartedly take part no matter what the circumstances.

We know that last year and the year before Jerusalem Day coincided with the enemy's hostile and barbaric attacks on our cities and residential areas, including Tehran itself. However, even under those circumstances our nation displayed its readiness to attend these ceremonies with courage and bravery. They indeed attended and the names of Jerusalem and Palestine were heard on the tongues of a great nation in the world.

Although elections are being held in some cities of our country, including Tehran and it is their duty to go to the polls, the people demonstrated true greatness today. The great number of people present at Friday prayers, and before that in the streets, demonstrated their strong resolve to attend both the elections and this great Islamic and revolutionary jihad. If other Muslim nations paid attention to this point as does Iran—and I will explain this point—no doubt the problems of noble Jerusalem and occupied Palestine—this complex issue which is considered a chronic and incurable wound—would be solved.

The point is this: We have not considered the issue of Palestine an exclusive problem of that nation. We have not even viewed it as a regional issue. We consider it an Islamic issue. Had the problem been only a national one, our nation would have not have been to highly motivated. It is true that we support the oppressed nations, but such great enthusiasm would have not existed among our people. If other nations were to make note of this issue and to view this issue as an important Islamic issue—something that all Muslims emphasize—then this issue would not remain the insoluble problem it is today. Certainly the problem will be solved. We believe the problem of Palestine can be solved.

Let me mention the origins of this problem today in this second sermon which I will devote primarily to this issue. I will discuss this issue, the Palestinian problem, so that it will remain in our nation's memory in a logical and set form. One point is the tyranny practiced against the nation of Palestine, a tyranny which has gone for 40 years and still continues. This tyranny is unprecedented in recent world history. We do not have many accurate reports about the distant past or we do not remember. However, we have studied and reviewed the global problems and issues of nations and countries in recent centuries.

During this period, the tyranny suffered was unprecedented. If in some parts of the world there are nations subjected to pressure, it is in this form that, for instance, an oppressive government from within that nation or an from an alien government is imposed on the nation. This is the origin of anticolonial and anti-arrogance struggle in this century. A nation would be trapped because it was not running its own affairs and its affairs were either in the hands of puppets imposed on them by aliens or directly in the hands of aliens. However, the fact that a nation is kicked out of its own home, its own homeland, with utmost cruelty and in a most tragic manner, and its culture, civilization, historic records, and national identity are routed and destroyed, is unique in the world and no one except the aggrieved people of Palestine have been subjected to such treatment.

A dangerous, calculated policy appeared in the world. Now, what were the chief motivations behind it? Was it opposition to Islam or was it a more comprehensive issue than opposition to Islam on the part of a number of international Satans who created Zionism and searched for a country for Zionists, nominally for Jews but actually for the Zionist party? These are among other issues that we will discuss.

In any case, from the time these events began, they drove this nation from their homes and livelihood by means of various ugly methods. They even went so far as to go to a village, for instance, and blow up the entire village, killing all its inhabitants, burning all their houses, burning their young children in the fire, machine-gunning down the old and the young and annihilating them. They adopted these methods along with all kinds of force and pressure, and managed to separate a nation from its homeland, from its home, from the land on which it had lived for centuries, from its memories, its cultural heritage.

This is truly a unique and extraordinary injustice. They have turned a nation into a refugee, tent-dwelling, slum-dwelling nation: some in Lebanon, some in Jordan, some in the countries of the Persian Gulf, some in Africa, and some in other parts of the world. They have been dispersed and scattered and families have been totally disrupted. This is a unique injustice. The question of Palestine remains the greatest injustice of our times and of contemporary history.

The Islamic world should not forget this. Muslim nations should not forget that the Palestinian nation became the most oppressed nation of the world. The greatest injustice committed against them was not that foreigners came and took away their homes. Greater than this crime was that even the kings, presidents, and rulers of neighboring Arab countries also committed injustices. Take King Husayn: During Black September, he killed and injured several thousand of them and crushed them, or so he believed. In Egypt they were mistreated. In Arab countries they were mistreated. In Lebanon, in Iraq, and in countries of the Persian Gulf it is the same story. Everywhere, in one way or another, the Palestinians were treated harshly and contemptuously. If a Palestinian could hide his nationality in order to better himself, he did so. Otherwise, as a Palestinian he was treated with contempt everywhere. This is the first point. It is very important and we must not forget it.

The second point is that this nation has, over the past 40 years, fought and made sacrifices; we should be fair. However, this self-sacrifice was wasted and rendered futile through internal and external betrayal. Almighty God has promised nations that anyone who struggles will see the results of this struggle. [passage omitted] Anyone who struggles, will no doubt achieve some results. Yet this struggle, which the Palestinian people began over 40 years ago, was nullified and rendered ineffective due to betrayals, neglect, and shortcomings. In other words, for a while the Palestinian people were considered by the world as a heroic people who resisted thanks to the blessings of their own struggles during the sixties.

However, after the Palestinian leaders, those who spoke on behalf of the Palestinian people, altered the course of the struggle and got caught up in a serious military struggle, first a political struggle and then political games, and after the emergence of differences between the Palestinians themselves, then the efforts of the Palestinian people with their slums, tents, and toleration of their hardships, turned futile and were wasted. A nation sometimes struggles and labors but its leaders waste the products and results of this struggle; they let them rot on the ground and waste away. What a shame that great injustices are done to nations like these. Unfortunately, this is what happened to the Palestinian nation.

Differences appeared between Palestinian heads and Palestinian leaders. [sentence as heard] They began to quarrel among themselves on such affairs as names, personal problems, and banking problems. They made peace with the enemy and became enemies with friends. We saw a Palestinian group adopt a hostile policy against a nation or a government which supported Palestine, while becoming friends with a nation and a government which opposed Palestinian aspirations. It even become a friend, directly or indirectly, with the occupying Zionists. We have witnessed this as a historical reality of our time and we regret it very much.

When the Palestinians were fighting the war of Al-Karamah [West Bank village] during the early stages of guerrilla warfare, 25 years ago, we Iranians used to shout slogans in the name of Palestinians. In this same Tehran, the martyr Motahhari, the late Ayatollah Taleqani, and others organized sessions and collected money to help Palestinians. In other towns the same thing happened. In Mashhad, I myself was shouting slogans in the name of Palestinians. The Iranian nation was shouting slogans for Palestine and in the name of Palestine. It was a struggle.

However, this struggle that had succeeded in attracting the attention of the whole world began gradually turn against itself. It became an anti-struggle. Palestinian leaders and Palestinian political organizations began to forget their mission. They drifted into political wheeling and dealing—with the United States, with the West, East, and everybody who helped to create this dirty Zionistic fetus. Palestinian leaders established ties with all of them. They forgot their own nation and they gave up the struggle. This is one topic.

There is one other point also of great importance: They stopped thinking about Islam as part of the struggle for Palestine. Forty years have gone by in this manner, forty years. This is similar to when the children of Israel during the time of Moses became wanderers until God showed them the light, revived them, and taught them to fight, teaching them that if they wanted to be victorious they had to forego selfishness and desires. They had to accept hardship. For 40 years they did so; this was 2000 years ago. Today this Muslim nation, which is under the yoke of the undeserving descendants of the children of Israel, have been wanderers throughout the world for 40 years. However, today we see indications of serious movement in the life of the victimized Muslim Palestinian nation whose rights have been usurped. If I fail to mention the struggling Muslims who are offering their own lives in the occupied lands, then I will have done them a great injustice.

Two elements were missing in the struggles of the Palestinian nation. Now they are being compensated for; they are now obvious. One is the fact that the Palestinian nation's struggles has shifted from the homeland to outside; instead of struggling inside, they were fighting outside. First, they went to a neighboring location where it was to take shape. However, gradually it began to move farther away. Palestinian leaders began to travel, pay visits; to be welcomed and received. They totally abandoned the real struggle. Today once again the struggle has returned to within the occupied land. The struggling Palestinian nation is boiling from within.

Jerusalem has clenched its fist and is shouting. Palestinian men and women who have remained in the occupied lands—the remainder of the Palestine nation still living there, whose population has increased during these 40 years—now are defending their rights, their nationality, their religion, and their honor. This is one element. During the past 40 years this element was missing. For a short period, we possessed this element in a weak manner; later we did not have it all.

The second element is Islam. They had forgotten Islam. Here we asked some Palestinian leaders why they did not declare the Palestinian uprising an Islamic uprising. We asked them whether the Palestinian people are Muslims. Why not declare it an Islamic uprising? They resorted to excuses and said that it is not practical. Now we see that it can be done. What lesson, what inspiration is better than the Koran for struggle by a Muslim nation, a nation which follows the Koran? [passage omitted] Why not declare this struggle a struggle for the way of God? Why not make it for God? Why not make it a divine struggle with Islamic motives? Then these verses will provide the power for the nation to move. This lack was a great oversight and indeed reflects a darkness in their hearts. Now we see that the cries of struggle in the occupied lands begin in the Friday prayers. This very day, Friday, God knows what goes on in the occupied lands. God knows what kind of emotion is in the hearts and spirit of the people, the men and women who are participating in Friday prayers, and the Friday prayer leader.

God knows with regard to how many families, youths, women, and men the executioners of Palestinians will adopt those despicable and savage methods. However, if they resist, they will undoubtedly be victorious. If they resist, they will attract the support of nations. It is imperative and necessary for nations, Muslim nations, to consider the Palestinian problem their own problem just as the Iranian nation does. Just as we observe Jerusalem Day with such greateness and splendor, let other nations also show global arrogance that they are not indifferent to this matter. Let them assist in various ways. This is humane assistance.

The last thing I will say is that one of the causes of the endless resentment, hatred, and vengeance of arrogance in relation to the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic is just this Palestinian issue. Of course, the reasons for their enmity is your being Muslim, the fact that the Islamic Republic is based on the Koran. One of the manifestations of being Muslim is this: that a human being should understand the problems of a Muslim nation and struggle toward that end. Our nation is demonstrating this.

The problem of occupied Palestine is very important for the United States. It is so important that in the Persian Gulf, with its usurious and aggressive presence, it has threatened the greatest force that is defending the Palestinian ideal, that is, the Islamic Republic. One of the U.S. motives is precisely that. They know that a victory by Iran in this imposed war will be a great step toward the liberation of Palestine. They know that when the powerful soldiers of Islam and this great popular movement have brought the enemy to its knees here, they will with even stronger morale go after that other enemy. [chants]

The obstructionism, despicable acts, and enmities of arrogance in relation to our nation and their determination that the Iranian nation should not be victorious in the imposed war is based on the same reason. They know that such a victory would be very costly for global arrogance. We do not deny this is the case. I will once again note for the benefit of world public opinion that in the face of the will of a resisting, determined, and united nation which relies on God such as ours no barrier is insurmountable. With our resistance, with our intelligent and well-planned battle strategy, we will, God willing, do something to make the deceitful ways of arrogance, which is confronting the Iranian nation in the Persian Gulf, even more costly. [chants]

They are afraid and wary of the fact that if the Iranian nation is victorious over the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, Muslim nations of the world will be encouraged and our nation will have even greater offensive force. This is true, of course. However, the Muslim nations of the world will be more encouraged than ever and this nation itself will develop a stronger offensive spirit with regard to arrogance and Israel on the day when it is victorious over the deceits and ploys of the United States in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, what they imagine to be obstructionism in the face of the Iranian nation will itself become an instrument, with God's assistance, for a more splendid and pronounced victory by the Iranian nation. [chants]

We will not overlook any threatening act of the enemy and, undoubtedly, the steps taken by the United States in the Persian Gulf against the Islamic Republic will meet with our strong reaction. In the imposed war also, in spite of the United States and the collusion between big powers and between East and West, our nation has the capability, a capability that will, God willing, increase daily, to inflict decisive blows on the enemy and turn the hope that has grown in the heart of the enemies of Islam—that they will be able to maintain the Iraqi regime—into disappointment and hopelessness. [chants]

We invite all brothers, the faithful, and the prepared to maintain this preparedness, to consistently maintain the strength of the Islamic Republic on the battlefields at this high level so that the military commanders can attack whenever they think it necessary. Believing that if it came to the Persian Gulf it could weaken the fronts of battle against Iraq, the enemy embarked on certain moves and rushed to the scene. We will, God willing, resist on both fronts with power, with full strength. [chants]

We consider justice to be on our side and are certain about the victory of justice. We know that our faithful, selfless, and self-sacrificing nation will, God willing, witness that victory in the not too distant future. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Further on Jerusalem Day Marches

LD1305170788 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—Also present in the rally were representatives of Islamic Freedom movements from Bahrain, Jazirat al-Arab (Arabian Peninsula) and Afghanistan who underlined the need for establishment of an Islamic government in their respective countries.

An Iraqi POW, captured by Iranian Muslim combatants on the battlefields of the Iraqi-imposed war six years ago, was seen among the marchers as well. The POW, who requested anonymity for the safety of his family in Iraq, told IRNA that he was sorry that he had once fought Muslim revolutionary combatants of Iran. He also regretted that he had to stay in captivity instead of taking arms in the fight against the Zionist regime.

A resolution, read at the end of the rally, strongly condemned the regime occupying Qods for its crimes and repressive measures against the Palestinian people who it described as "brave children of Islam".

It also warned reactionary Arab leaders against making any compromise with the superpowers over the issue of Qods, saying that an armed struggle inspired by the Islamic revolution of Iran is the only way to liberate Qods.

The resolution, pledging Iran's full-fledged support for freedom strugglers in Lebanon and Palestine, underscored the need for all Muslims to consolidate their unity and avoid discord.

Elsewhere the resolution castigated the Saudi dynasty for the Mecca massacre of pilgrims on July 31, 1987 and for barring Iranian Muslims from coming to Mecca to perform this year's hajj pilgrimage in a blatant defiance of the Holy Koran.

It reiterated that the Muslim people of Iran will continue their sacred defence until they attain a final victory over Iraq and until Iran's just demands are met.

As the resolution was being read to demonstrators, they shouted slogans in support for its outlooks and against the "Great Satan (U.S.) which is the cause of tension and insecurity in the world and in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf." They also called on Iranian military commanders to firmly respond to U.S. provocations against Iran and to its threats against the security of the Persian Gulf.

Statement of Marchers

LD1305130588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 88

["Excerpts" from the resolution passed by Jerusalem Day marchers]

[Text] At the end of the march marking Jerusalem Day, a resolution listing 12 clauses was read. According to the Central News Unit report, this resolution once again expressed the renewal of divine allegiance of the Hezbollah ummah with the lofty status of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] and the all-round realization of the divine objectives of his eminence the imam in the great charter of the revolution. The resolution also emphasized persistance in the holy defense in the imposed Iraqi war against Islamic Iran until final victory. While condemning the treacherous collaboration between global arrogance and regional reaction with the Zionist Iraqi regime, this resolution emphasized that the war is the main issue and called for the mobilization of all the country's material and spiritual resources to meet the needs of the war and the extensive and enthusiastic presence of the Hezbollah ummah on the battlefronts.

This resolution supported the message of the people of Palestine and praised the uprisings of the Muslim nations and genuine Islamic fronts all over the world. The resolution also emphasized the necessity for unity among Muslim forces, adding: Following the sublime teachings of Islam, we declare that any kind of compromise with the occupiers and superpowers over the question of Jerusalem is a betrayal of Islam and the Muslims. Moreover, we warn the reactionary rulers of the region and Arab forums [Majame'-e Arabi] not to fall any deeper into this abyss of treachery or they will face the revolutionary anger and Islamic wrath of the Muslims.

This resolution also states: We believe that the great and divine hajj and the holy Ka'bah should be used for declarations disavowing pagans and opposing the tyrants of history and we annouance that it will not be long before the blessed shrines are administered by ulema chosen by the oppressed and the Muslim nations.

The resolution calls on the deputies of the Third Islamic Consultative Assembly to abide fully by the guidelines and valuable councils of his eminence the imam and the deputy leader in realizing the revolution's charter. The resolution also praises the self-sacrifices of the martyrs, the POW's, those missing in action, and those disabled in the imposed war, particularly the sailors martyred while confronting U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf. The resolution then stresses: We shall always respect the memory of the oppressed martyrs of Halabjah.

Voting Hours Extended To Accommodate Turnout
LD1305145888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1305 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Dear listeners, we have established contact with the election headquarters of the Ministry of Interior. I have asked Mr Shahryari [not further identified] to talk to you, dear listeners.

[Shahryari] Thank you. Despite all the efforts to make it an unnecessary to extend the times for voting, because of the unprecedented turnout at some polling stations, the election headquarters authorities have had to extend the voting times by 1 hour.

I will read the text of the statement issued by the honorable interior minister for you and the dear listners: All governors, deputy governors, executive teams, and polling station officials are hereby informed that due to the people's enthusiasm in some election constituencies and stations, the voting time in all constituencies has been extended up to 1800 today.

Signed: Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, interior minister

[Announcer] So, people can now vote until 1800.

[Shahryari] Yes, it is 1800 in the afternoon at all polling stations.

Islamic Punishment Act Ratified
LD1405184388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 88

[Excerpt] During today's Supreme Judicial Council session, 10 articles of the Islamic Punishment Act were discussed and ratified with some amendments.

According to Article 102, any person commiting a sinful act in public will receive 74 lashes in addition to further punishment. If he commits an act which is not punishable but which offends public decency, he will only receive 74 lashes.

According to the note accompanying the article, women appearing in public without religious dress will receive 74 lashes. [passage omitted]

Navy Commander Cited on Upcoming Maneuvers
LD1405111588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, paid a visit this morning to those wounded in our heroic naval battle with the U.S. fleet. In an interview with reporters on the current situation in regional waters and developments there, he said: Our dynamism has increased after the last battle with the United States, and the waters of the region are being controlled more carefully.

Malekzadegan referred to the great 10-day naval maneuvers, which will be conducted soon in the Gulf of Oman and in areas outside the Persian Gulf. The exercises will be staged jointly with our air and Ground Forces. He noted: By holding these maneuvers, our Navy will demonstrate that not only has it not been weakened in any way, but that it remains a great power in the region.

Commodore Malekzadegan concluded by stressing the high morale of the wounded and their insistence on returning to naval duty after recovering from their injuries. He said: As they have shown in the Persian Gulf, our brave naval fighters will stand fast before any threat, and will continue to carry out their important mission of guarding the Persian Gulf with determination.

WIH Denies Iraqi Claim on Shelling Basra

LD1405085788 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—A spokesman for the War information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically denied Iraqi claims of the Iranians' shelling of Basra. The spokesman said that since the latest halt in the war of the cities, the Iraqi regime has frequently and routinely published such claims. The aim behind such claims, he said, is nothing but to give "the Iraqi criminals" a chance to resume the war of cities.

WIH Denies 15 May Attack on Al-Sulaymaniyah

LD1605080088 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 16 IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically denied an Iraqi claim on Sunday that Iran had attacked the Kalar and Darband-e Khan border region in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

The spokesman said Iranian planes had carried out no missions in Al-Sulaymaniyah province Sunday and only heavily bombed enemy troop concentrations of the Second Corps of the Iraqi Army north of Ba'qubah in Diyala Province.

Baghdad's allegations on Darband-e Khan's shelling by Iran is a routine one, he said, adding that this is nothing but a means to pave the way for continuation of Iraq's mischievous acts in attacking Iran's residential and non-military areas.

The spokesman stressed that Iran's fighter bombers and missile units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) are ready to give a decisive response to the Baghdad regime in case enemy resumes it mischievous acts.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,201

LD1305181788 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—Iranian jets on Thursday carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman despite receiving three warnings from foreign warships, and reconnoitered 24 vessels among them oil tankers, tugboats and warships.

Announcing the above here Friday, the 3201st Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units, in addition to controling shipping in the Strait of Hormuz thursday, closely monitored movement of two foreign warships in the waterway.

Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions throughout the battlefields yesterday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements and observation posts and a munitions dump of theirs.

Iranian artillery fire repelled an Iraqi patrol unit in Maymak, southern fronts, yesterday, inflicting several casualties on the enemy patrols.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy emplacements of light and heavy weapons were destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

On Thursday, Iranian artillery fire halted or disrupted Iraqi engineering operations in Anjireh, Kani-Sheykh, Nahr 'Anbar and Yebis, western and southern fronts, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Movement of Iraqi vehicle columns in Yebis, Zobeydah, Nahr 'Anbar, Hoseyniyeh and on Mandali-Havas [name as received] and Helaleh-Maymak axes were checked by Iranian artillery fire Thursday, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Shelling Wounds 23

LD1405154488 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—Twenty-three civilians were wounded during Iraq's shelling of the Kurdish populated Iranian city of Marivan, Friday night.

Iraqi forces slammed 18 rounds artillery shells on residential quarters of the city between 21:15 hours and 22:24 hours local time (17:45-18:54 hours GMT), damaging a total of eight houses.

Four of the victims, a couple and their two kids suffered serious head and chest injuries when a shell landed on the roof of their 60-m house.

An informed military source made it clear that the silence of Muslim combatants towards Iraq's mischievous acts has its limits. He added that such crimes indicate the Iraqi regime's intentions of resuming attacks on residential areas, a measure which would face the decisive response of Muslim combatants.

Communique on Recents Clashes

LD1405183688 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—Iranian Air Force fighters heavily bombed troop-concentration sites of Iraqi armoured and infantry units in Zurbatiyah region at 02:30, 03:00, 03:40 and 03:45 GMT Saturday.

The 3102nd [number as received] communique of the Joint Staff Command announcing the above said, all Iranian fighter-bombers returned to bases safely after inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy.

Air Force planes Friday effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in support of the Navy, reconnoitering some 17 foreign vessels.

Exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire raged on between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi forces throughout the fronts yesterday being somewhat more intense in Naft-e Shah, Sumar, and Kushk, said the communique.

Movements of Iraqi forces was checked by the timely despatch of patrol units to the war fronts, it added.

In northwestern fronts Friday, several Iraqi forces were killed when enemy bunkers and gun emplacements were targetted, while in the western fronts a number of Iraqi troops were killed and wounded when their bunkers and a watch post were destroyed.

In southern fronts, continued the communique, several Iraqi forces were killed and wounded when Iranian combatants destroyed some bunkers and anti-aircraft guns of the enemy.

The Muslim combatants also checked movement of Iraqi vehicle columns in Sharhani, Zobeydah, and Nahr 'Anbar regions yesterday damaging several Iraqi vehicles killing or wounding the crew.

On Friday movement of Iraqi tank columns was brought to a halt in Panjwin, Sayyid Sadiq and Sumar.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces disrupted Iraqi vehicle movements and engineering activities, said the communique concluding that some Iraqi forces were killed and wounded and three bunkers of theirs destroyed.

Iraqi Sites at Ba'qubah Bombed

LD1505070688 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Iran's fighter planes heavily bombed concentration centers of the Second Corps of the Iraqi Army north of Ba'qubah, in Diyala Province at 05:22 hours local time (01:52 hours GMT) today. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces reported that the fighters safely returned to their bases.

Iraqis Use Toxic Gas in Irbil

LD1505121588 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 15 IRNA—At least 100 civilians in Iraq's predominantly Kurdish province of Irbil, northern Iraq, were martyred and many more wounded during the past few days as Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on several villages in the province.

Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, here Saturday identified the villaages of "Kuk-Tappeh", Assgar-Sutkeh", "Mayeleh", "Farchenar", "Sheikhan", "Kalleh-Shir", and others in "Hamran" and "Zehzi" [all placenames as received].

On Saturday eight Iraqi warplanes bombed the same villages as well as many others in Iraq's Irbil Province killing mainly women and children.

In Irbil militant Kurds have long since been waging a struggle against Saddam Husayn's rule in Iraq.

Communique No 3,203

LD1505171088 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Iran's Air Force fighter-bombers heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites north of Ba'ubah town at 01:42 Sunday, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3203rd communique released by the Joint Staff Command said all fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

The communique said Iranian Air Force also effectively carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday to provide air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter foreign vessels in the waterway.

Iran's naval units, in addition to defending the country's southern islands and oil platforms, carried out their routine patrol missions in the territorial and international waters of the Persian Gulf.

Iranian anti-aircraft units based on Abu Musa Island in the Persian Gulf repelled an unidentified helicopter and a warplane attempting to approach the island yesterday.

On the battlefields, Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions and motorized columns Saturday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements and some vehicles of theirs.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers set ablaze in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with iranian gendarmerie forces Saturday.

Iraqi tank squadrons moving in Panjwin, Sumar and Nahr 'Anbar were shelled by Iranian artillery fire yesterday as a result of which enemy troops incurred several casualties and losses, concluded the communique.

28 Casualties in Iraqi Raid

LD1605154188 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Three Iranian civilians were martyred and 25 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas of Sarchin village, a suburb of Sanandaj (Kurdistan Province) at noon today.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Sanandaj and while fleeing broke the sound barrier over the city, dropping two bombs on nearby Sarchin village.

Some 15 houses were destroyed and damaged in today's Iraqi bombings. Most of the injured civilians were treated as outpatients.

Intruding Iraqi planes also violated the airspace of Hamadan and Bakhtaran today, but were forced to flee by heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants.

A spokesman for War Information Headquarters (WIH) earlier today refuted Iraqi claim on Sunday that Iran had attacked the Kalar and Darband-e Khan border region in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

Flag of Freedom Reports Anti-Regime Protests

NC1505133788 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Reports from Tehran and Esfahan state that on various days in the past few months the people of Esfahan have staged street demonstrations in different parts of the city to protest the tyranny and injustice of the Khomeyni regime, shouting "Death to Khomeyni," "We do not want war." The guards of the Islamic komitehs intervened a few times to disperse the demonstrators, but were forced to retreat in the face of the mounting fury of the citizens who had reached the limits of their endurance.

According to our co-combatants, during the months of Esfand, Farvardin, and Ordibehesht [period between 20 February and 21 May], numerous street demonstrations were staged in various parts of Tehran. Expressing their hatred of Khomeyni's government and their deep loathing of the war's continuation and the shortage of consumer goods, people shouted "Death to Khomeyni."

Another report from Tehran states that the Islamic regime's consecutive defeats on the battlefronts and on the domestic scene, particularly the people's absence at the ridiculous display of elections, have resulted in extreme apprehension and chagrin throughout the government, military, and police force. The Islamic regime's echelons are now gripped with fear and pessimism regarding their future, and worry about their fate in the event of the regime's downfall.

Our co-combatants add: This rising feeling among the regime's higher officials has greatly perturbed the government leaders. Very few persons display any enthusiasm to continue their work, and most employees attempt to find ways of shrugging off the regime's numerous impositions in order to separate themselves from the ruling regime.

Our co-combatants from Hamadan have reported that in the past few days many street demonstrations have been organized against the regime to protest high food prices and the war's continuation. They remained steadfast against the Guards' attempt to disperse them. Our Hamadan co-combatants add: These demonstrators encountered fire from the Guards, who killed some and wounded others. However, the people valiantly continued their resistance shouting "Death to Khomeyni." They also declared their resolve to avenge the blood of those who were killed and to continue in their struggle against the regime.

Pakistan

President Swears in New Ministers 15 May

BK1505113288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Five new ministers and three ministers of state were sworn in today as members of the Federal Cabinet.

The ministers and their portfolios are:
Sardar Wazir Ahmad Jogezai—water and power;
Malik Mohammad Naim Khan—science and technology, health, special education, and social welfare;
Sardarzada Mohammad Ali Shah—railways;
Mr Ghulam Mohammad Ahmed Khan Manika—establishment and O & M [Organization and Methods] division;
Begum Qalsum Saifullah Khan—population planning and women division.

The ministers of state and their portfolios are:
Syed Iftekhar Ali Bukhari—finance and economic affairs division;
Syed Taslim Nawaz Gardezi—information and broadcasting;
Agha Ata Mohammad—railways.

The oath of office was administered by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at a simple ceremony at the Presidency in Rawalpindi. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, was present on the occasion. The ceremony was also attended by federal ministers and senior officials.

Steps Taken To Implement Geneva Accords

BK1405162488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Pakistan and the Kabul regime have informed the deputy of the UN secretary general's representative on Afghanistan that they have taken all the steps necessary to pave the way for the implementation of the Geneva accords beginning tomorrow.

In a statement in Islamabad, General Helminen [head of the UN Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan] said he has been given full assurances from both parties that all arrangements have been made to facilitate the full implementation of all clauses stipulated in the instruments of the Geneva accords.

These assurances have been given in response to General Helminen's request prior to 15 May, the date when all instruments of the Afghan settlement will become effective.

The Pakistani Government had informed the deputy of the UN secretary general's representative on Afghanistan on 11 May that all necessary arrangements for the full implementation of the Geneva instruments will be completed by today so that Islamabad can sincerely fulfill its obligations under the Geneva documents.

He was also assured that Pakistan will extend full cooperation to the members of the UN Good Offices Mission in discharging their responsibilities. Arrangements are being made expeditiously to provide necessary travel facilities to the UN mission.

General Helminen has been told that according to the bilateral agreement for the voluntary return of Afghan refugees, Pakistan will sign within 1 week a special agreement with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

As the return of the refugees is the most important issue in the Geneva Accord, the Pakistani Government hopes that Islamabad will be provided with necessary information so that the refugees can be assured suitable conditions have been created for their return with honor and safety.

The UN Good Offices Mission will visit several refugee camps in Pakistan tomorrow. The mission will also tour various areas of Afghanistan.

PNP Chief on Attempt To Partition Afghanistan

BK1305142488 Karachi DAWN in English 9 May 88 p 8

[Text] Karachi, May 8: Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, President of Pakistan National Party [PNP], on Sunday warned of an "international conspiracy" to partition Afghanistan in a bid to establish an "imperialist base" at the backyard of Pakistan.

"The Mujahidin may, if they like, fight their own people in Afghanistan, but they have no right to partition their country to make part of the occupied territory a base for imperialism," he said.

The Mujahidin, however, will be welcome if they succeeded in forming a government of their choice with the support of the Afghan people, he added.

Mr Bizenjo was speaking at an iftar [Ramadan fast-breaking] party held by the Sind PNP chief, Mr Shah Mohammad Shah, at a local hotel. Present besides the diplomats of the USSR, China, India and Afghanistan were leaders of the various political parties and the Sindhi nationalist groups.

Mr Bizenjo observed that already the nation was struggling to eliminate the present pro-U.S. set-up in Pakistan and when attempts are being made to have a pro-imperialism base at the country's backyard, they would be resisted.

The PNP chief, in another context, said "the powers-that-be posed a real danger to Pakistan's unity and security." The only way to get rid of them was by launching a sustained movement by all sections of the society, and not merely by the political activists.

He said those who think that the rulers would step down and hand over power on a platter to the people were living in a fool's paradise. If through votes power could be transferred to the people, then Bangladesh would not have been created, he pointed out.

Mr Bizenjo said an "imperialist power" had hatched a conspiracy in Afghanistan to serve its global interests as well as a "national conspiracy" in Pakistan to keep the armed forces involved directly in politics.

"The nation will have to foil both the conspiracies and set up a pro-people 'raj' wherein they have control over all the means of national income and production," he emphasised. Earlier, Mr Shah spoke briefly on the occasion.

PPI [Pakistan Press International] adds: Mr Bizenjo, proposed that in his personal view Pakistan should be divided into three zones—Pakhtun, Punjab and Sind, Seraiki-Baluch zone to resolve the issue of giving equal rights and representation to all the nationalities.

He said that if this proposal was implemented it would help save the country from chaos.

Zain Noorani Leads Delegation to USSR 15 May
BK1505081888 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has said the Geneva accord has opened up a new atmosphere for Pakistan and Soviet Union to strengthen their bilateral relations.

He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning before his departure for a 3-day visit to Moscow. He is leading a good-will delegation to participate in the 40th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The delegation includes some prominent parliamentarians. Mr Noorani said their visit will pave the way for further improving the bilateral relations. He said that besides holding discussions at various levels, he would meet the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, and the first deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov. The Pakistani parliamentarians will meet the Soviet parliamentarians.

Interior Secretary Departs for New Delhi Talks
BK1305153088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India will be held in New Delhi tomorrow. A nine-member delegation led by Federal Interior Secretary Khalid Mahmud has left Islamabad for New Delhi.

The talks are a part of the process to normalize bilateral relations. At the meeting, the two sides will also discuss issues relating to terrorism and illegal border trade.

Press Note on Curfew Relaxation in Karachi Areas
BK1605030988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] A press note issued by the commissioner of Karachi says the situation was peaceful in Karachi yesterday and the curfew has been lifted from the Malir Extension, Brigades, Liaqatabad, New Karachi and Gulbahar areas. Curfew has been relaxed in Shah Faisal Colony, and some parts of (Jamshedbagh) from 0600 to 2200 today.

Curfew has been relaxed in Nazimabad and Gulbhahar police station areas of District Central and in Nadiria Market and Jalalabad from 0600 to 2200. Curfew has been relaxed in Kwaja Ajmer Nagri police station area from 0400 to 1000 and will again be relaxed from 1600 to 2200. Curfew has been relaxed in Orangi Town police station area of District West from 0300 to 2200.

Sri Lanka

Official Says Phased Withdrawal by IPKF Planned
BK1305131088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Colombo, May 13 (AFP)—Indian troops are to withdraw from Sri Lanka in a phased manner, a senior minister announced here Friday after returning from talks in New Delhi.

Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake told reporters no date has been set for the start of the withdrawal, but this would be discussed at talks in Colombo next week. Mr Dissanayake had talks in New Delhi with Indian leaders Thursday.

He estimated the number of Indian troops on the island under a 1987 accord aimed at ending Tamil separatism at between 60,000 and 75,000. Previous estimates have put the total at nearly 52,000.

Mr Dissanayake said Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant would visit Colombo in a week's time for final discussions with President Junius Jayewardene, who also holds the Sri Lankan defence portfolio. "The Indo-Sri Lanka accord was not signed to keep Indian troops (in Sri Lanka) for all times," he said.

Indian troops had achieved "absolute control" over the island's north and east, where Tamil guerrillas had once tried to set up a homeland, he said.

"If there is no violence or terrorism, the presence of the IPKF (Indian Peace-keeping Force) is not necessary," he said. Sri Lankan troops and police will replace the Indians when they begin withdrawing, Mr Dissanayake added.

Indian troops began arriving in Sri Lanka on July 29 last year. In October they mounted a major offensive against the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, after it repudiated the accord.

Land Minister Denies Agreement Signed
BK1405114088 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Indian Defense Minister K. C. Pant will visit Sri Lanka within a week. He will hold discussions with President Jayewardene on the presence of the IPKF in Sri Lanka, the holding of elections for the provincial council in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, and the position with regard to the LTTE. This was disclosed by the minister of land and land development, and Mahaweli development, Gamini Dissanayake, at a news conference at the Mahaweli Center in Colombo yesterday.

Answering questions, the minister pointed out that Delhi had said the IPKF could create conditions necessary to hold the provincial council elections in the north and the east by the end of this month. Elections are due to be held by July or August. After the elections, there will be a phased withdrawal of the IPKF.

Replying to another question, Mr Dissanayake said that the IPKF was absolutely in control of the north and the east and that they have up to now achieved a large measure of success in their operation. The LTTE still possessed arms and since India had been better informed, this matter will be discussed during Mr Pant's visit to Colombo. He made it clear that there is no transition period in the north and the east. The minister noted that there may be up to 75,000 IPKF in the north and the east. The Sri Lanka Government has guaranteed and will guarantee the safety of the Tamils.

Referring to refugees in Madras, Mr Dissanayake said that there was a possibility of arrangements being made to cast their votes with regard to Trincomalee. He added that two-thirds of refugees have now returned.

In reply to a question with regard to a reported agreement with JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], the minister said that there was no such agreement. But he added that the proscription on the party had been lifted. He further said it was now possible for this group to come into the mainstream of democratic activities in the country.

Spokesman Says 2 Killed in LTTE Landmine Blast

BK1305044888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] In Trincomalee, a PKF spokesman today denied the report that 6 jawans [soldiers] of the peacekeeping force were killed in a landmine blast which blew up their vehicle in the Trincomalee District yesterday. He told our correspondent that 2 jawans [soldiers] of the PKF, who were patrolling on foot, on the Pankulam-Trincomalee road were killed when the culvert which they were approaching was blown up in a landmine blast; one jawan was injured. During the exchange of fire which followed, the LTTE militants ran away from the place. The spokesman said no vehicle of the peacekeeping force was blown up in a landmine blast.

LTTE Arms Captured; 2 IPKF Soldiers Killed

BK1505112488 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Troops of the IPKF made a massive weapons haul at Puttur, 18 km northeast of Jaffna town yesterday. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that an IPKF patrol had successfully raided an LTTE base and captured 6,600 rounds of ammunition, 5,600 rounds of detonators, 37 kg of explosives, 12 RPG rockets and 43 grenades.

Meanwhile, at Weli Oya in Trincomalee, two IPKF soldiers were killed and one other wounded in a blast caused by an LTTE explosive device.